砂ぼうずの正度

BEAM COMIX

第十七巻

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BEAM COMIX

石川ぞうす

17

うすね正俊

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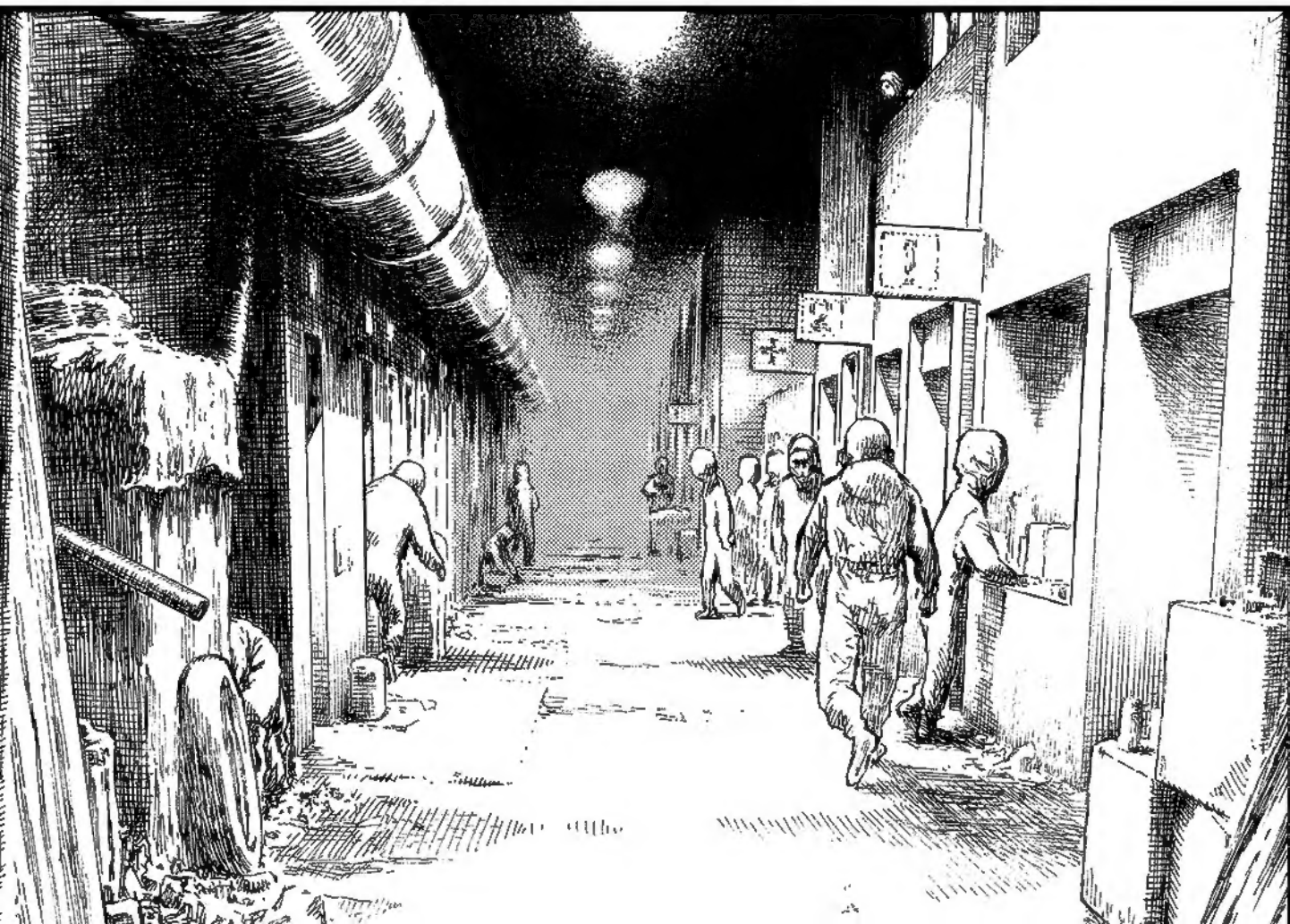
SUNABO-ZU CONTENTS

— STORY —

The plan has drawn to a conclusion with Kosuna's victory over Mizusaki. But stress and fatigue made her crumpled and dried up like a granny?

While anxiously trying to find a way to revitalize her, Mitsuru runs into his childhood friend, Kou. Kou approaches him with an unsettling deal...



—CHARACTERS—

West Oasis Government

Mitsuru

Son of Koidemizu, Sunabozu's master. He leaves Sunabozu and partners with Kosuna. A sufferer of the Hulk disease.

Master and pupil

Kosuna (Koizumi Taiko)

Aspiring to be the strongest beauty in the Great Desert of Kanto, she becomes a pupil of Sunabozu. Her skills rapidly improves, but declares her independence from Sunabozu upon his betrayal. Currently living out her uncompromising everyday life...

In Opposition

Currently on opposing sides

Former master and pupil

The Majority Faction (Otaki faction)

Currently holds the majority within the West Oasis government. Believes they should leave the Earth's rebirth to its own ability to regenerate. As is the case with the Opposing Faction, the story has yet to reveal who is in control behind the scenes.

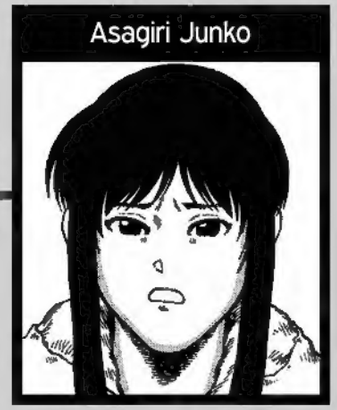
Sunabozu (Mizuno Kanta)

The talented handyman of the desert. Has no qualms resorting to underhand tricks. He betrays his former allies at the Opposing Faction, and joins the Majority Faction and now leads the cyborg soldiers.

Wants to fuck

Utterly exploiting

Asagiri Junko



"The Vixen of the Desert." She uses her cunning to swindle one man after another. Defects with Sunabozu to the Majority Faction.

In control of

Cyborg Soldiers

They are advanced technology from the Dark Ages, and they hold tremendous combat power. They are currently being controlled by Sunabozu.

In combat

Mizusaki

A Hunter who serves as a guide in West Oasis. He hits his head and goes a bit loopy.

Rivals

At War

South Oasis Government

They have been in combat with the West Oasis Government for over three years. The Southern Alliance refers to the South Oasis government-affiliated resistance within West Oasis territory.

Amagumo (The Rain Spider)

Sunabozu's rival handyman. A pervert to boot. Mainly takes requests from the South Oasis.

Escorting

Amami

The VIP of the current mission. Currently injured.

The Opposing Faction (Anti-Government Faction)

A group that proposes using remnant technology from the Dark Ages to efficiently aid the regeneration of the now-desolated Earth. The leader behind the scenes has yet to be revealed in the story.

Respects

Kawaguchi Fuyuo, Akio, and Haruo

AKA "The Machine Gun Brothers." They have known Sunabozu since their childhood days, but they don't get along with him. Their trigger-happy style of shooting is nothing but crude. Were persuaded by Natsuko to join the Opposing Faction.

Siblings

Kawaguchi Natsuko

The sole sister of the Kawaguchi siblings. Works hard and becomes an officer of the Oasis army, but later joins Kaido and co. due to their shared ideology. Currently a core member of the group.

Approaching

Tanigawa Seiji

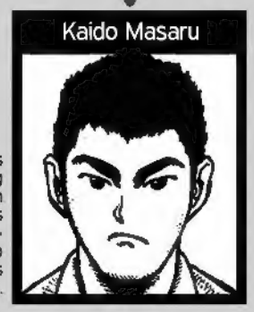
Former technician at the Uzumaki Industry. After being deceived by Natsuko, he takes the new suit from the company and runs for his life. Later joins the Opposing Faction.

Superior of

Ikeda

An academic studying the Dark Ages. He is active within the Opposing Faction, but is too kind-at-heart to be good at those jobs.

Kaido Masaru



An idealist who sets out on a wandering after pulling out from the military. After his meeting with Sunabozu, he returns to the army and joins the Opposing Faction.

Kaizuka Kaoru

The President of the Game of Life Company. A patron of the Opposing Faction, he is however abducted by the Majority Faction. Current whereabouts unknown...

Mitsuru must deal with Kou's request to acquire a gun!
That said, Kou must be in a precarious position as a victim of discrimination?

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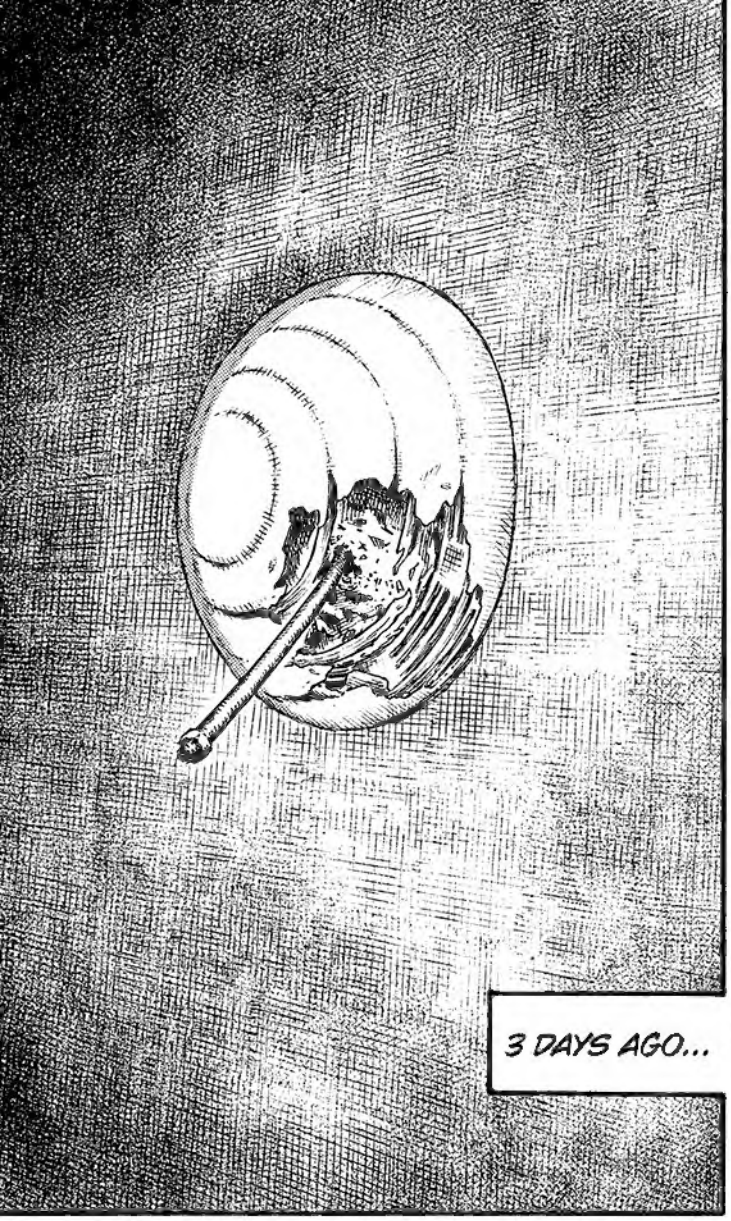
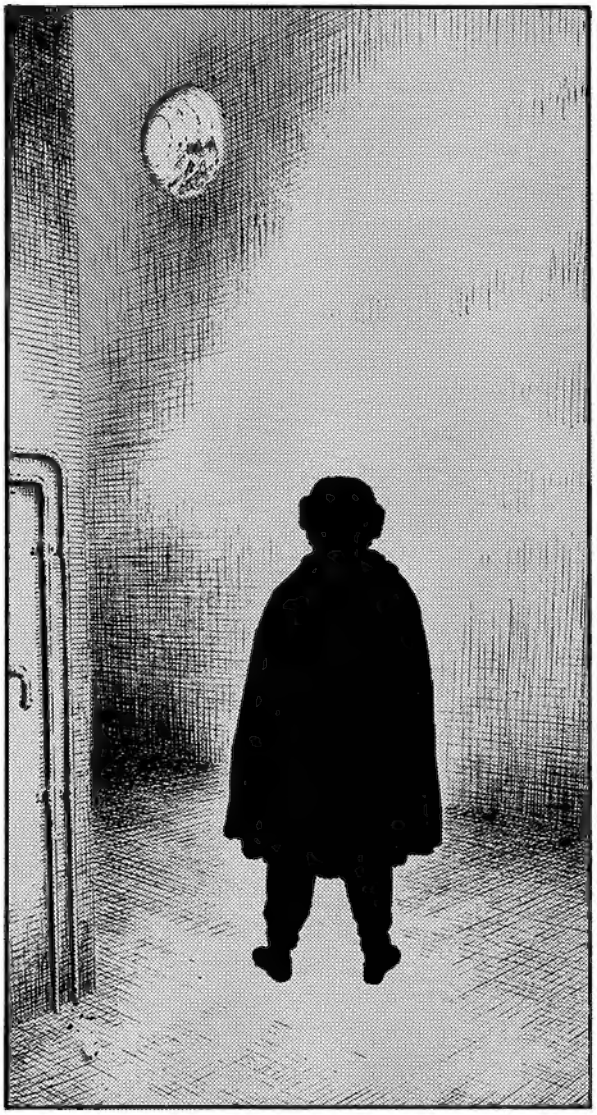
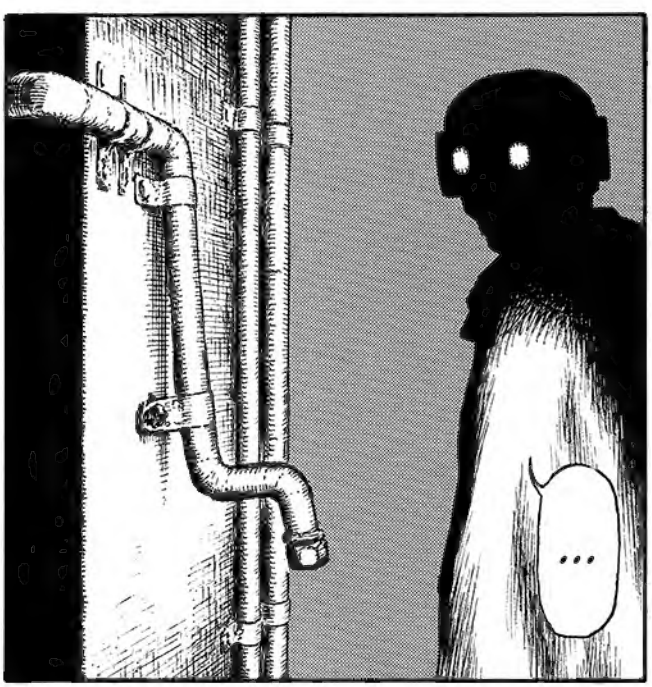

3 DAYS AGO...

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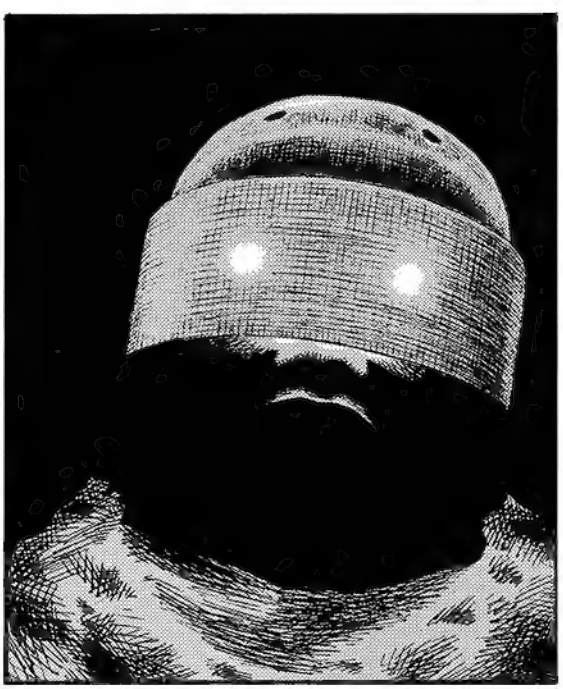
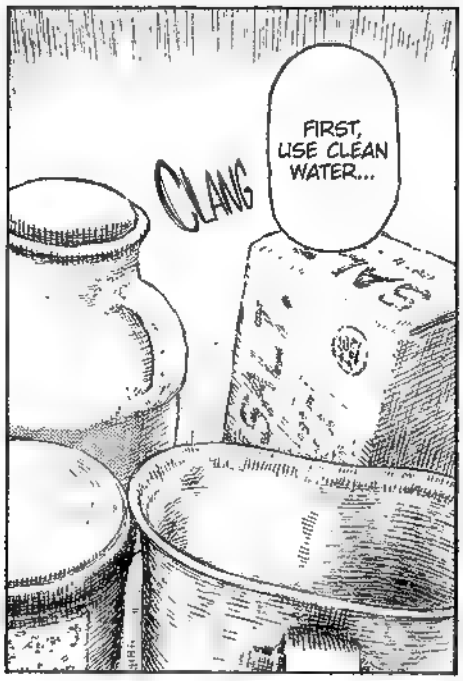


Sneak

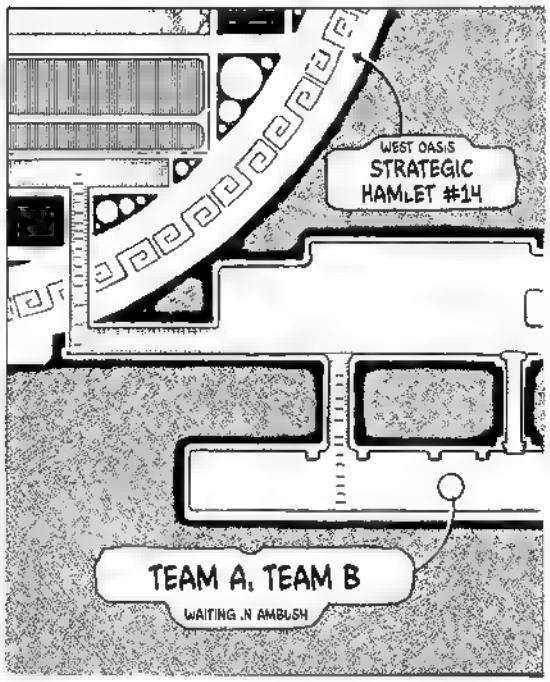
...FU
FUFU-FUFU

WAH!
WHAT THE?
BANG
Rustle
Kacha Kacha
THE LIGHTS BLEW UP!

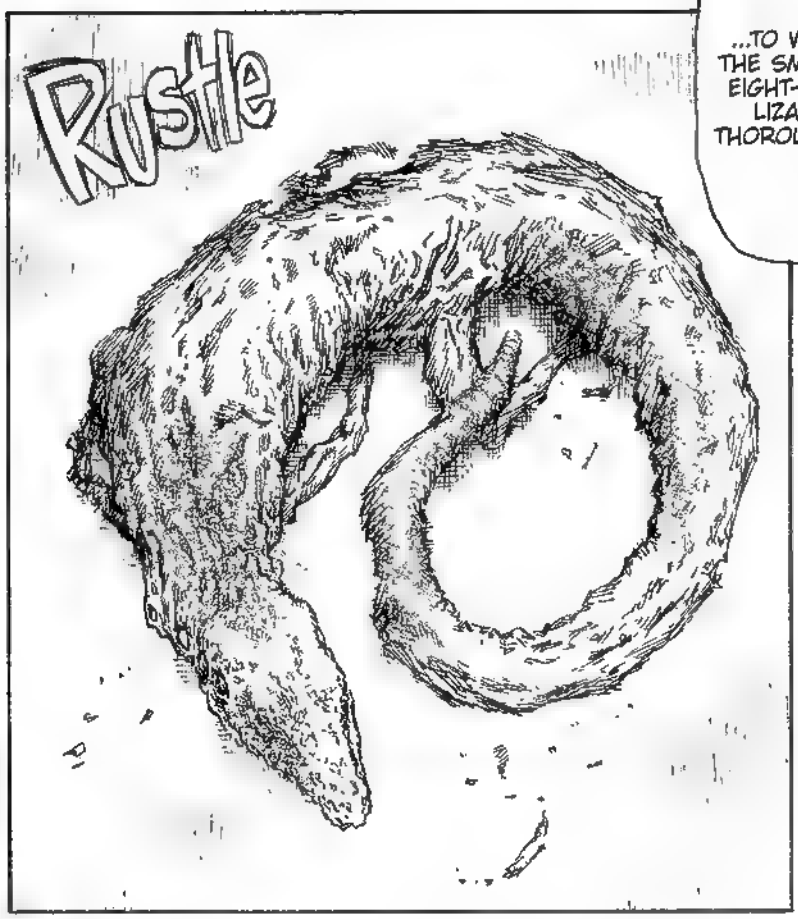
PRESENTLY...


CLANG
FIRST, USE CLEAN WATER...

Rustle Gong
LET'S SEE...
SNIP


WEST OASIS
STRATEGIC HAMLET #14
TEAM A, TEAM B
WAITING IN AMBUSH

BE ESPECIALLY THOROUGH WHEN TAKING OUT THE INTESTINES...
Since they're poisonous.
Well, I've washed it three times already so it should be fine!
Homemade Recipe
Eight-eyed Lizard Soup


Rustle
...TO WASH THE SMOKED EIGHT-EYED LIZARD THOROUGHLY.

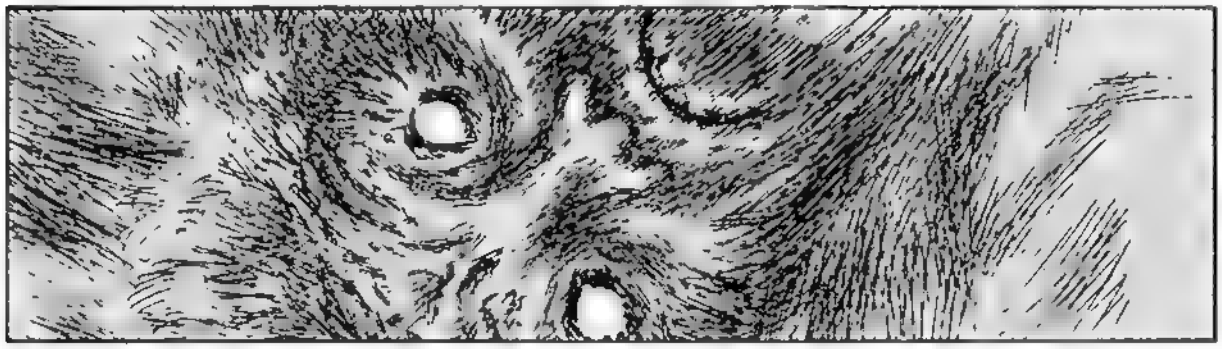
PREPARE A POT BIG ENOUGH...
...TO FIT THE WHOLE EIGHT-EYED LIZARD.

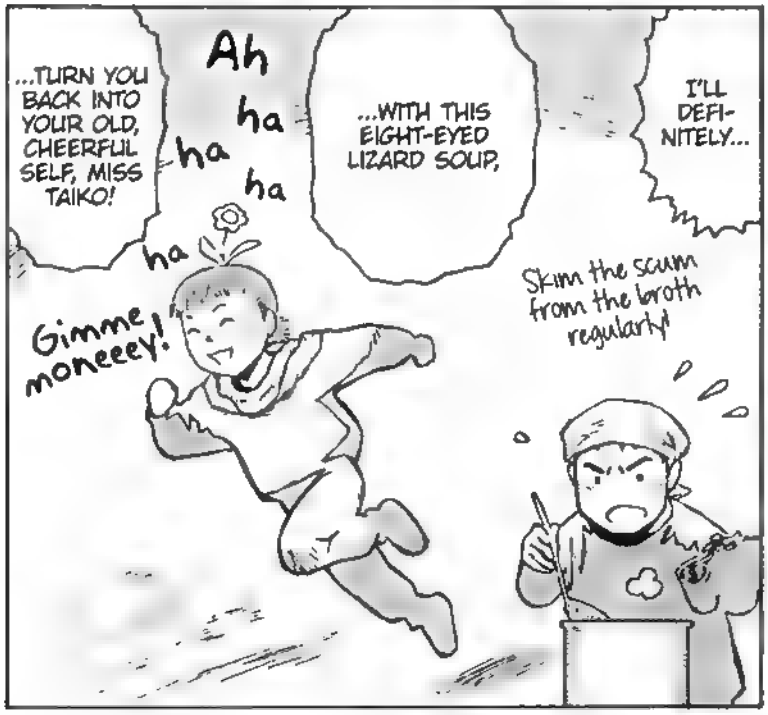
LET IT SIMMER OVERNIGHT.
Here's where it gets tough!

FILL WITH JUST ENOUGH WATER TO SUBMERGE THE SMOKED EIGHT-EYED LIZARD.
MEDIUM FIRE.
Just enough, okay!
DON'T LET IT BOIL.
Medium fire, okay!
SWITCH TO LOW HEAT WHEN IT TURNS HOT.

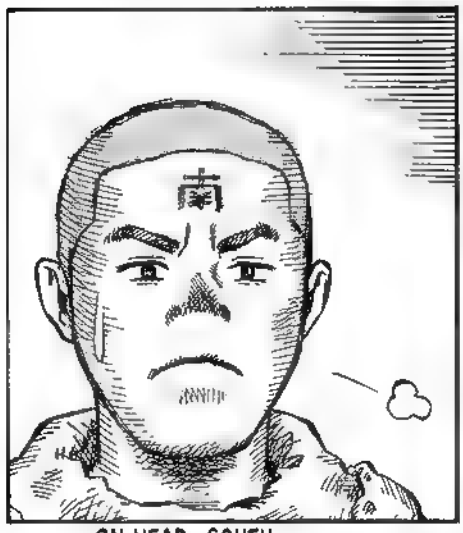
IT... IT'S THAT MYSTERY LANGUAGE AGAIN.....

Shock




...TURN YOU BACK INTO YOUR OLD, CHEERFUL SELF, MISS TAIKO!
Ah ha ha ha ha
...WITH THIS EIGHT-EYED LIZARD SOUP,
I'LL DEFI-NITELY...
Gimme moneeey!
Skim the scum from the broth regularly!

YOU HAVE TO HOLD ON A LITTLE LONGER.
You poor thing!
PLEASE HOLD ON.

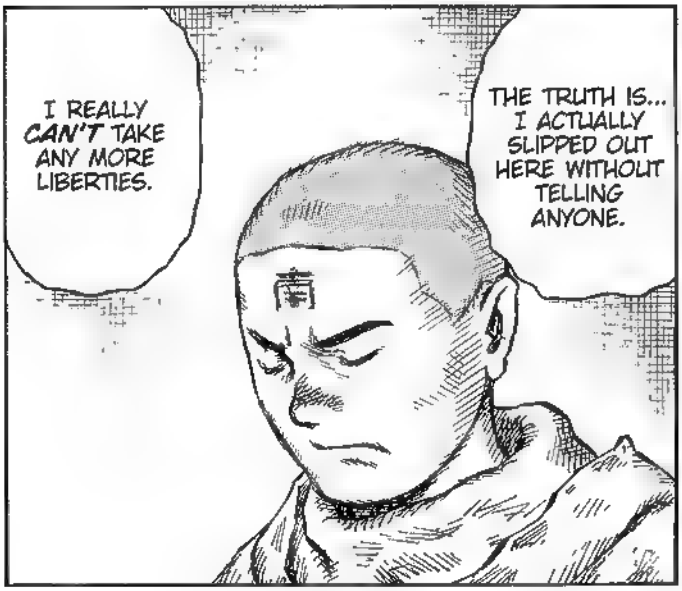


ON HEAD: SOUTH

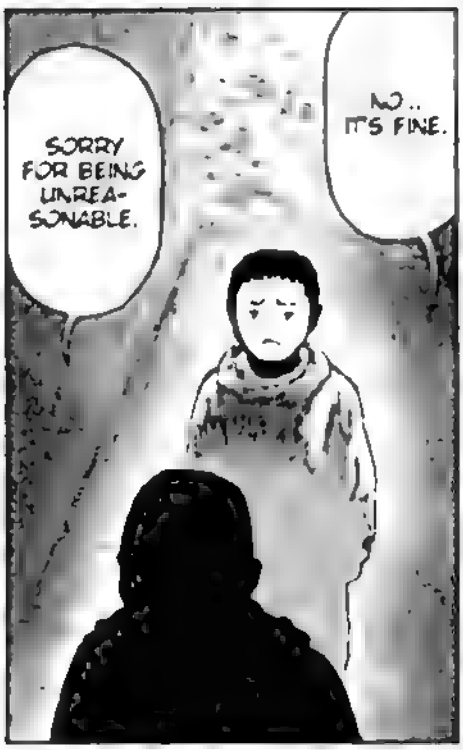
...
...THAN GETTING SOME FAKE IDS, RIGHT?
GETTING A GUN IS EASIER...

SO I'D HAVE TO GO THROUGH WITH THEM FIRST.
Tremble Tremble Tremble
THE PEOPLE WHO TAKE CARE OF ME ARE THE ONES WHO PUT EVERYTHING TOGETHER.
Ba-dum Ba-dum Ba-dum
Ba-dum Ba-dum

SORRY, BUT I CAN'T HELP YOU.


I REALLY CAN'T TAKE ANY MORE LIBERTIES.
THE TRUTH IS... I ACTUALLY SLIPPED OUT HERE WITHOUT TELLING ANYONE.

AND IF I ASK THEM, THEY'LL DEFINITELY OPPOSE IT.


SORRY FOR BEING UNREASONABLE.
NO.. IT'S FINE.

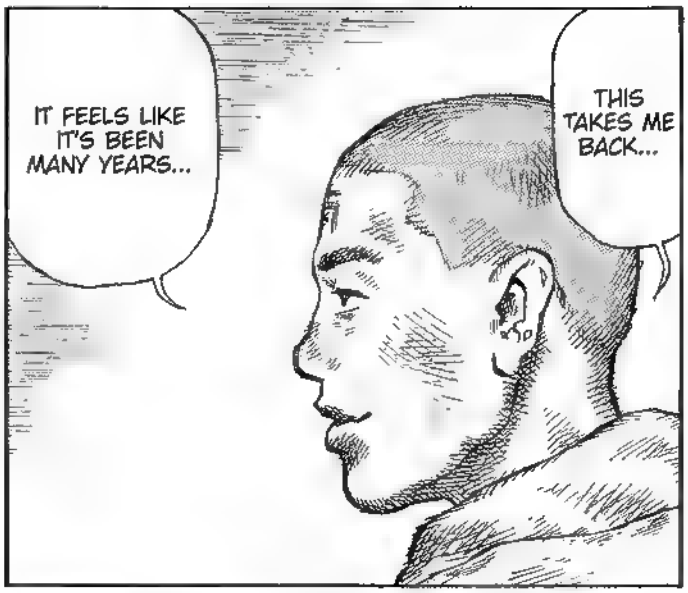
SORRY...

IT'D BE A NUISANCE, RIGHT?
I MEAN, YEAH.

HEHE

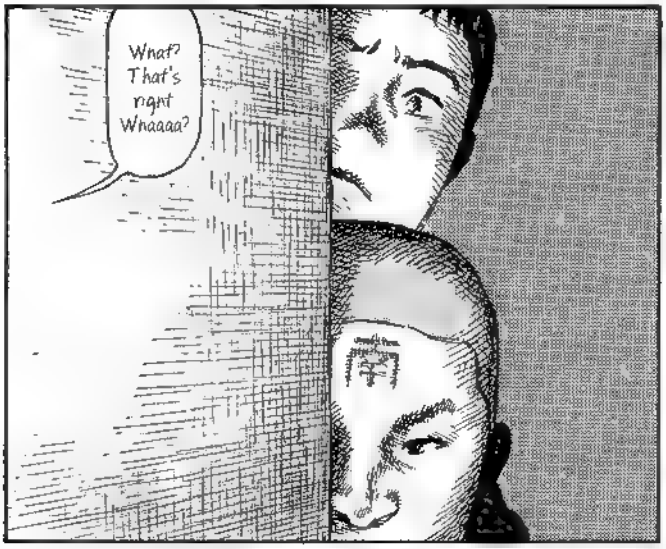
YOU REALLY HAVEN'T CHANGED
WHAT?

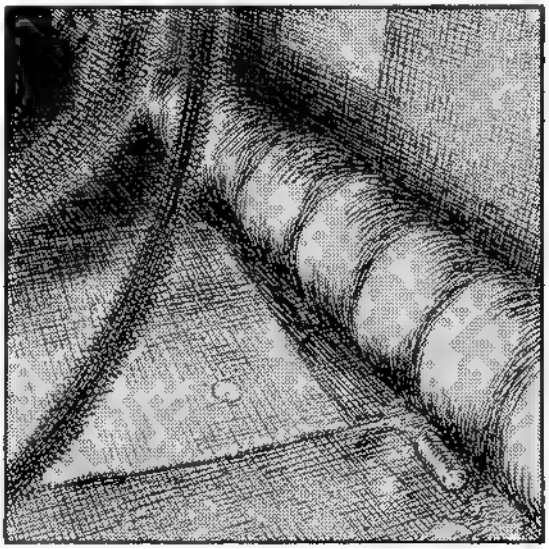
SORRY
I TOLD YOU, IT'S FINE.

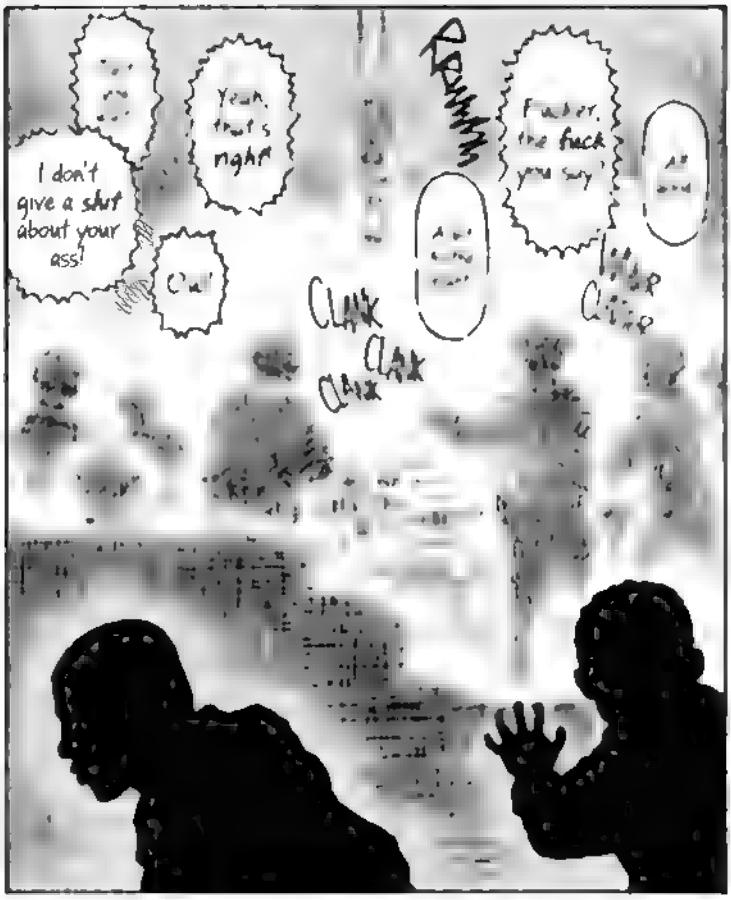

IT FEELS LIKE IT'S BEEN MANY YEARS...
THIS TAKES ME BACK...

...Y-YEAH...
Ba-dum Ba-dum
YOU GET TENSED AND ALL THAT, LIKE ALWAYS.

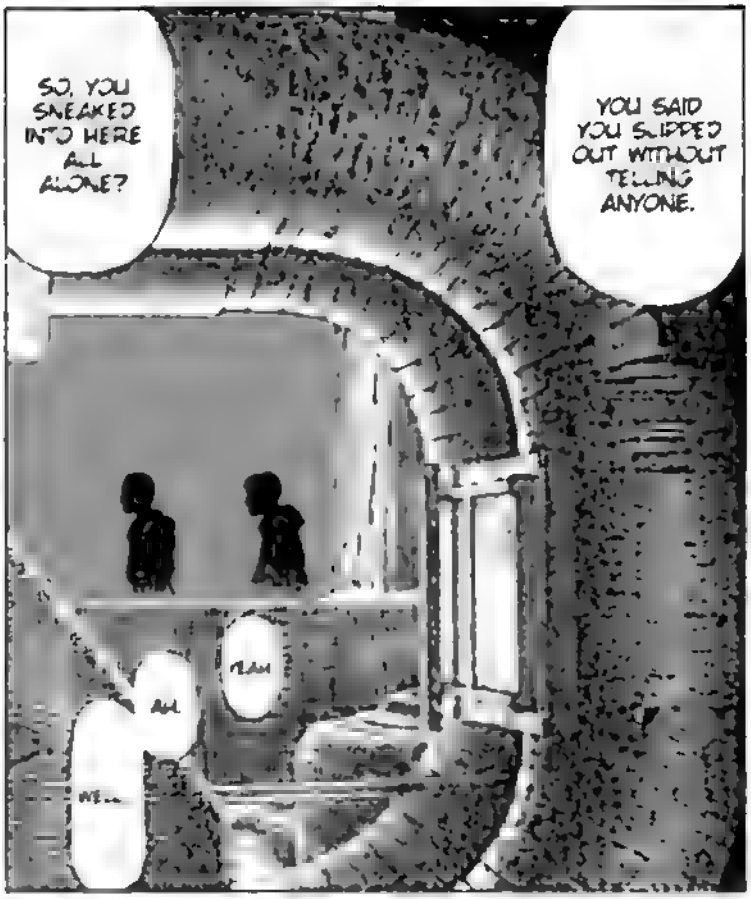
...BUT REALLY, IT HASN'T BEEN THAT LONG AT ALL.
YEAH...

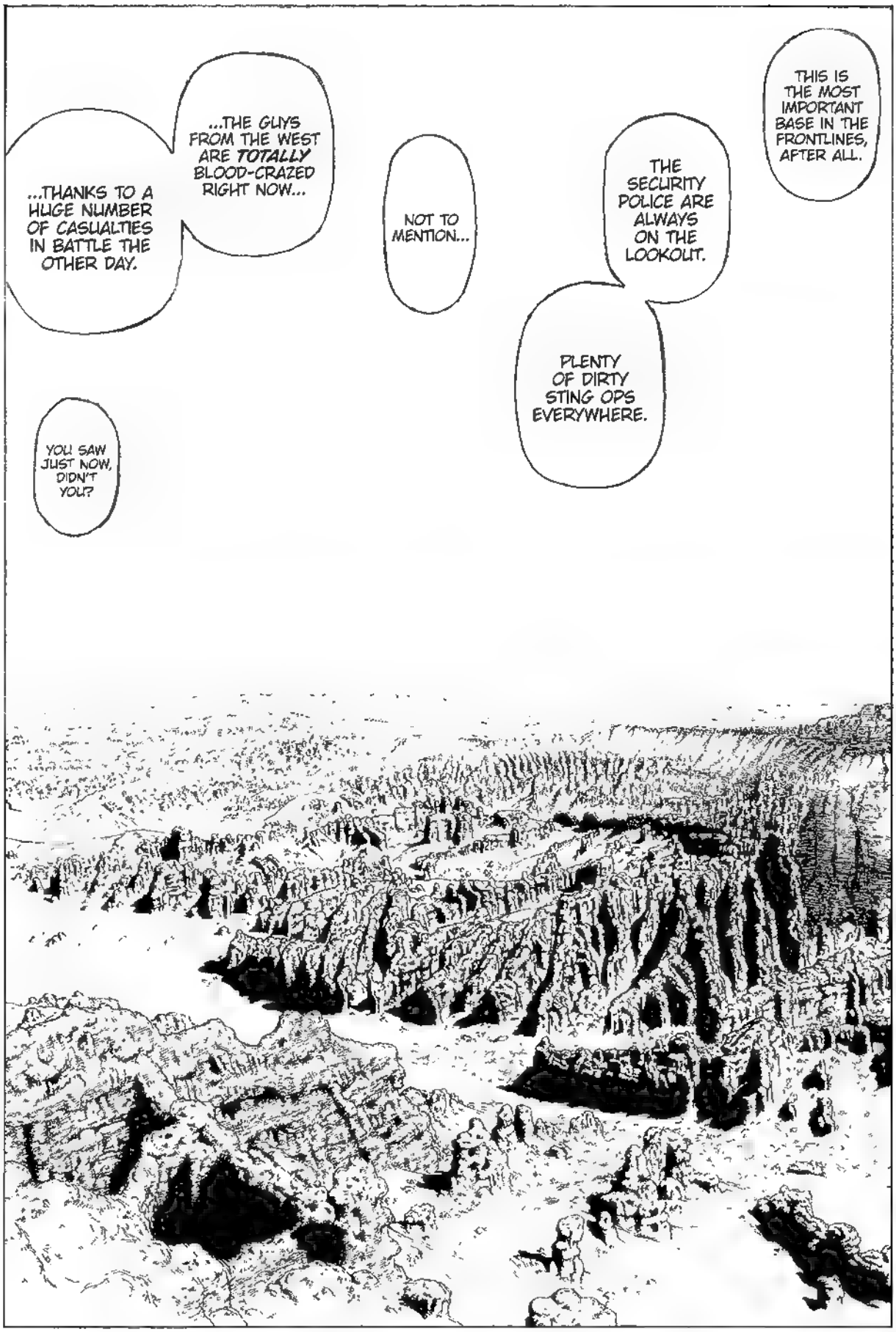

What? That's right Whaaaa?




I don't give a shit about your ass!
Yeah, that's right!
Owl!
Fucker, the fuck you say!
CLAK CLAK CLAK

THIS IS THE ONE PLACE A MOLE SHOULD NEVER APPROACH.
RE-GARD-LESS.
THE STRA-TEGIC HAMLET #14.


SO, YOU SNEAKED INTO HERE ALL ALONE?
YOU SAID YOU SLIPPED OUT WITHOUT TELLING ANYONE.
AH
NAH
WE...


...THANKS TO A HUGE NUMBER OF CASUALTIES IN BATTLE THE OTHER DAY.
...THE GUYS FROM THE WEST ARE TOTALLY BLOOD-CRAZED RIGHT NOW...
NOT TO MENTION...
THE SECURITY POLICE ARE ALWAYS ON THE LOOKOUT.
THIS IS THE MOST IMPORTANT BASE IN THE FRONTLINES, AFTER ALL.
PLENTY OF DIRTY STING OPS EVERYWHERE.
YOU SAW JUST NOW, DIDN'T YOU?

YOU'RE GONNA DIE A *PAINFUL* DEATH.

IF YOU'RE *EVER* CAUGHT AS A MOLE,

THEIR RIGHTS WILL BE RECOGNIZED TO THE EXTENT OF AN ALLY, BORN IN AN ENEMY NATION.

IF A STAY-BEHIND SOUTHERNER LIKE KOU PROMISES TO LEND THEIR ASSISTANCE TO MATTERS IN WEST OASIS...

SO, THEY'RE TREATED AS OBJECTS.

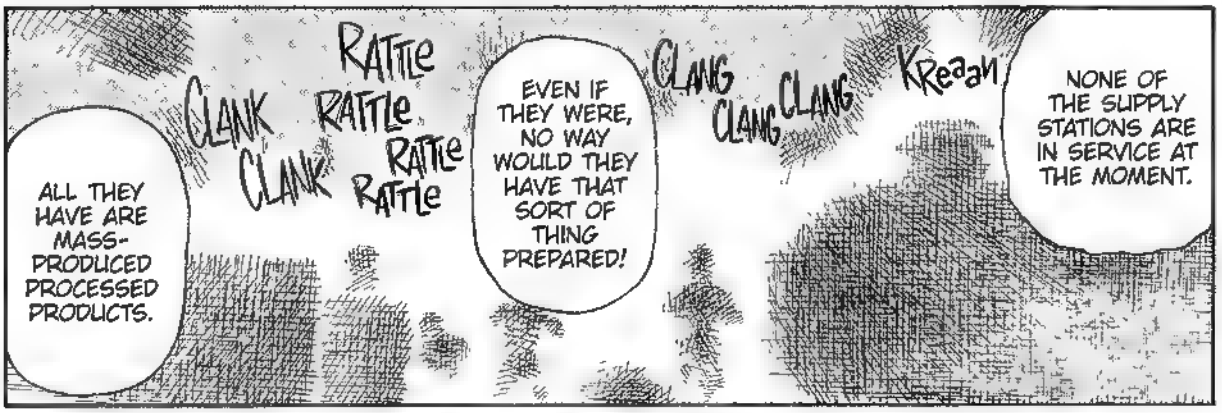
THERE IS NO CASE TO BE HAD IF YOU KILLED THEM.

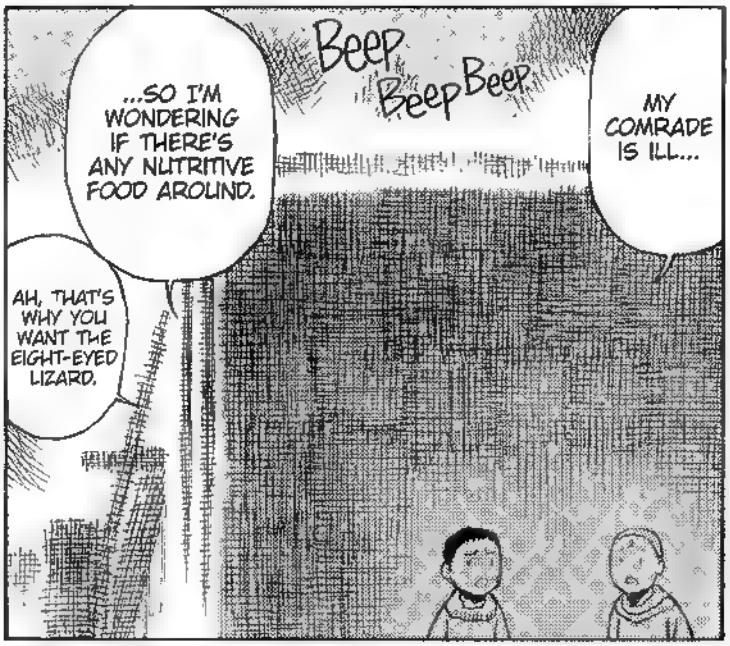
...HAVE *NO* HUMAN RIGHTS.

ON THE OTHER HAND, MOLES, WHO ARE NOT PART OF ANY GOVERNMENT,

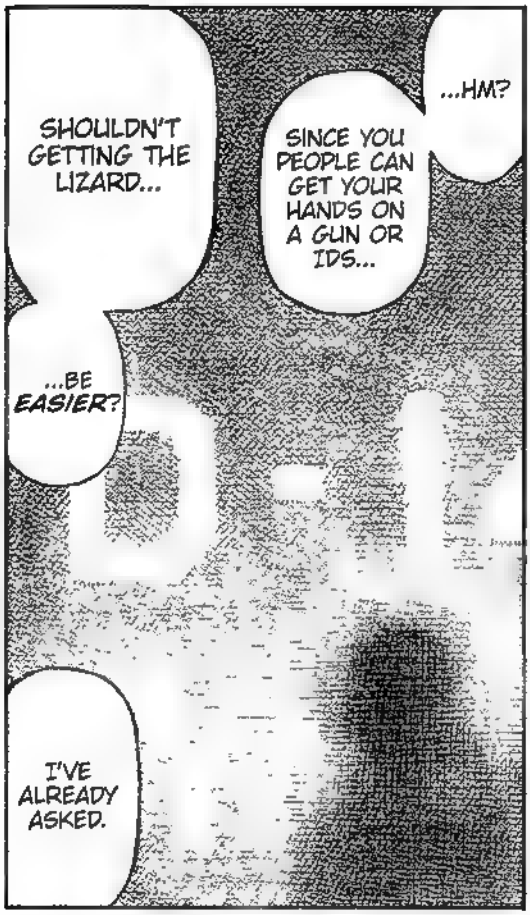
YUP, I'D LIKE TO GET A SMOKED ONE, IF POSSIBLE.
AN EIGHT-EYED LIZARD?

WHAT ON EARTH ARE YOU DOING HERE?
SERI-OUSLY...
You don't have to tell me.
I know, know!


ALL THEY HAVE ARE MASS-PRODUCED PROCESSED PRODUCTS.
CLANK CLANK
RATTLE RATTLE RATTLE RATTLE
EVEN IF THEY WERE, NO WAY WOULD THEY HAVE THAT SORT OF THING PREPARED!
CLANG CLANG CLANG
KReaan
NONE OF THE SUPPLY STATIONS ARE IN SERVICE AT THE MOMENT.

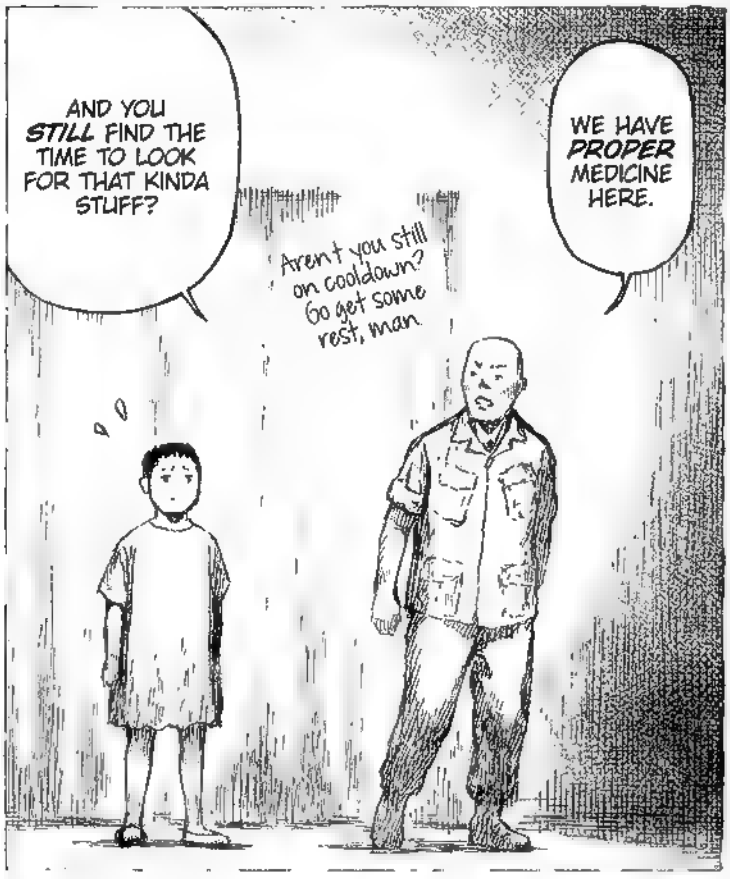

...SO I'M WONDERING IF THERE'S ANY NUTRITIVE FOOD AROUND.
AH, THAT'S WHY YOU WANT THE EIGHT-EYED LIZARD.
Beep Beep Beep
MY COMRADE IS ILL...

...LOOK-ING FOR THAT?
You're crazy!
YOU PUT YOUR LIFE ON THE LINE...


SHOULDN'T GETTING THE LIZARD...
SINCE YOU PEOPLE CAN GET YOUR HANDS ON A GUN OR IDS...
...HM?
...BE EASIER?
I'VE ALREADY ASKED.

WHEN I FELL ILL...
...MY DAD WOULD ALWAYS MAKE THAT FOR ME.

BUT MY COMRADE IS NOT GETTING ANY BETTER.
HE WAS SAYING THAT AND ALL...
So that's why you slipped out here

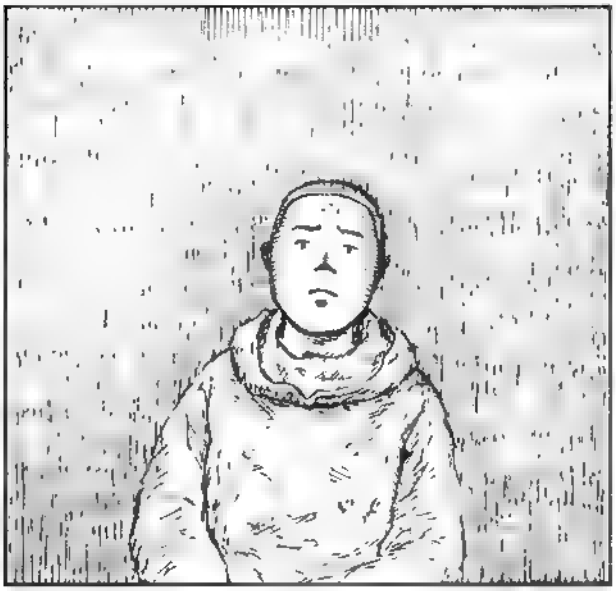

AND YOU STILL FIND THE TIME TO LOOK FOR THAT KINDA STUFF?
WE HAVE PROPER MEDICINE HERE.
Aren't you still on cooldown? Go get some rest, man.

I'M INDEBTED TO THEM.

YOU REALLY CARE ABOUT YOUR COMRADES.

DAMN, I GUESS IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO GET BACK TO THE CENTER WITHOUT DRAWING ATTENTION TO OURSELVES.
CONSTRUCTION WORK EVERYWHERE.
UWAH, WE'RE OUT HERE AGAIN.

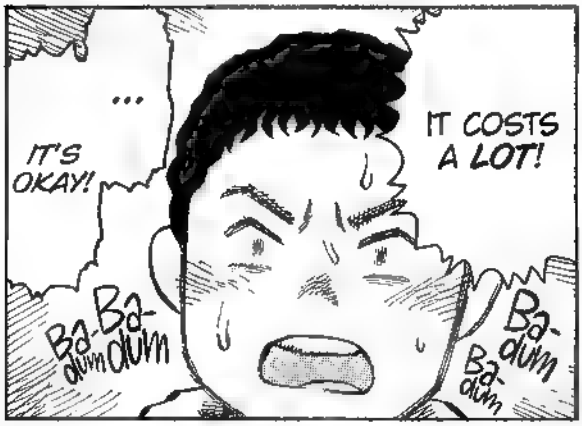
.....



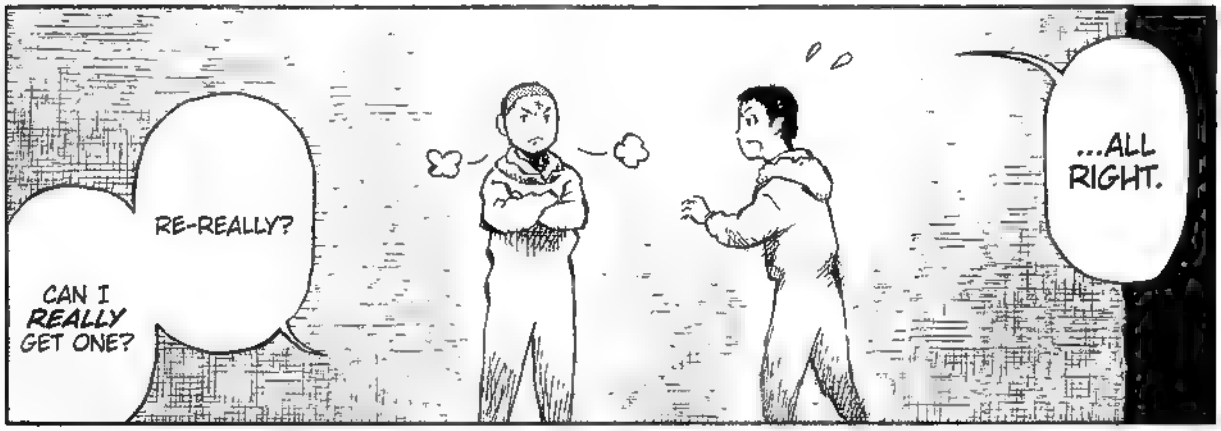
LET'S TAKE A BREAK.

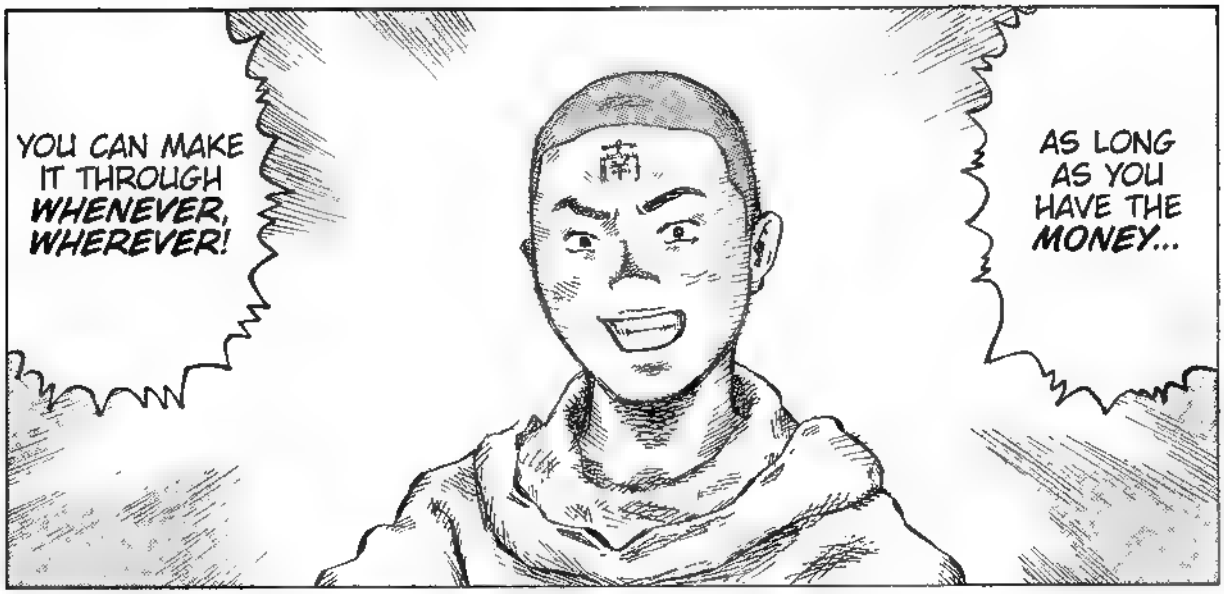
YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO GET YOUR HANDS ON AN EIGHT-EYED LIZARD.
...HUH?
I'M TALKING ABOUT THE LIZARD.
YEAH, IF WE WAIT IT OUT HERE...
...IT MIGHT WORK OUT ONE WAY OR ANOTHER.

HOW-EVER!
RE-REALLY?


...
IT'S OKAY!
IT COSTS A LOT!
Ba-dum Ba-dum
Ba-dum Ba-dum

I, I HAVE MONEY!
IT COSTS MONEY!


RE-REALLY?
CAN I REALLY GET ONE?
...ALL RIGHT.


YOU CAN MAKE IT THROUGH WHENEVER, WHEREVER!
AS LONG AS YOU HAVE THE MONEY...

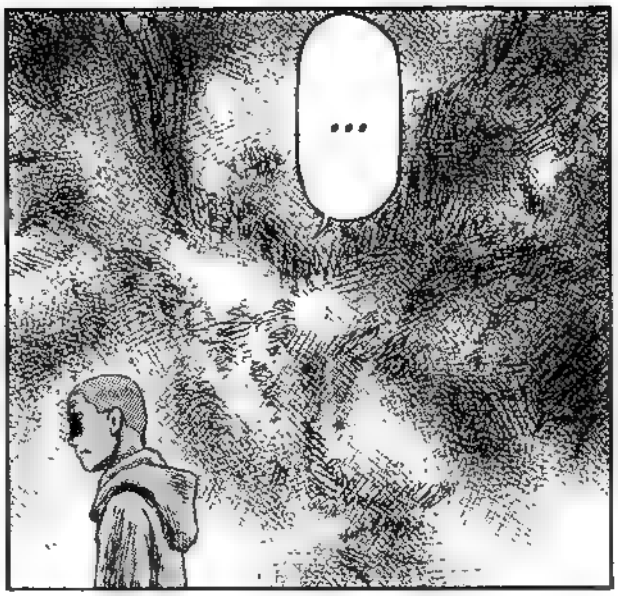
IT'S THE MARKET OF THE SOUTHERNERS IN THE STRATEGIC HAMLET.
THIS ISN'T JUST ANY BLACK MARKET.
THAT SAID, AN ORDINARY CIVILIAN WOULD NEVER KNOW ABOUT A MARKET OPERATING OUTSIDE OF THE LAW.
Whisper

I knew it!
I knew there had to be one!
Wherever people gather, a black market will always be established.
...THE BLACK MARKET!

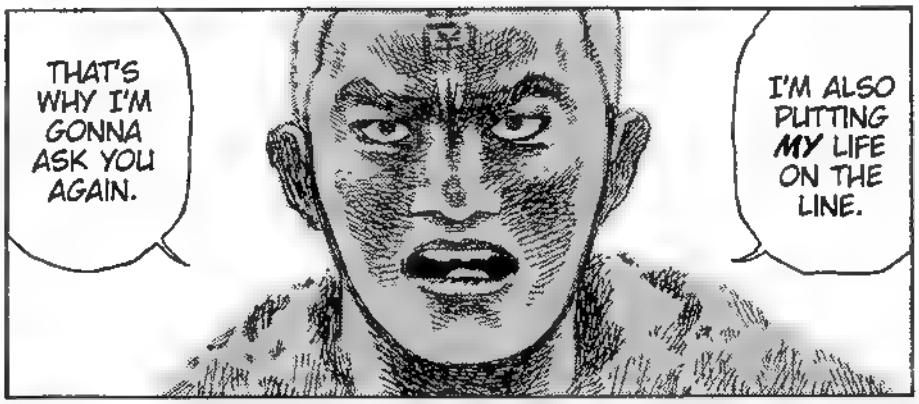
IT'S TRUE THEY HAVE THINGS BESIDES THE USUAL AT THAT MARKET.

I CAN ONLY IMAGINE THAT IT'S A NEST OF TERRORISTS.
NO MATTER HOW I SEE IT OR HEAR IT,
Sweat
How terrifying...

MY COMRADES WILL KILL ME IF THEY FOUND OUT I TOLD SOMEONE.
YOU ABSOLUTELY MUSTN'T TELL ANYONE ABOUT THIS.
Got it


...

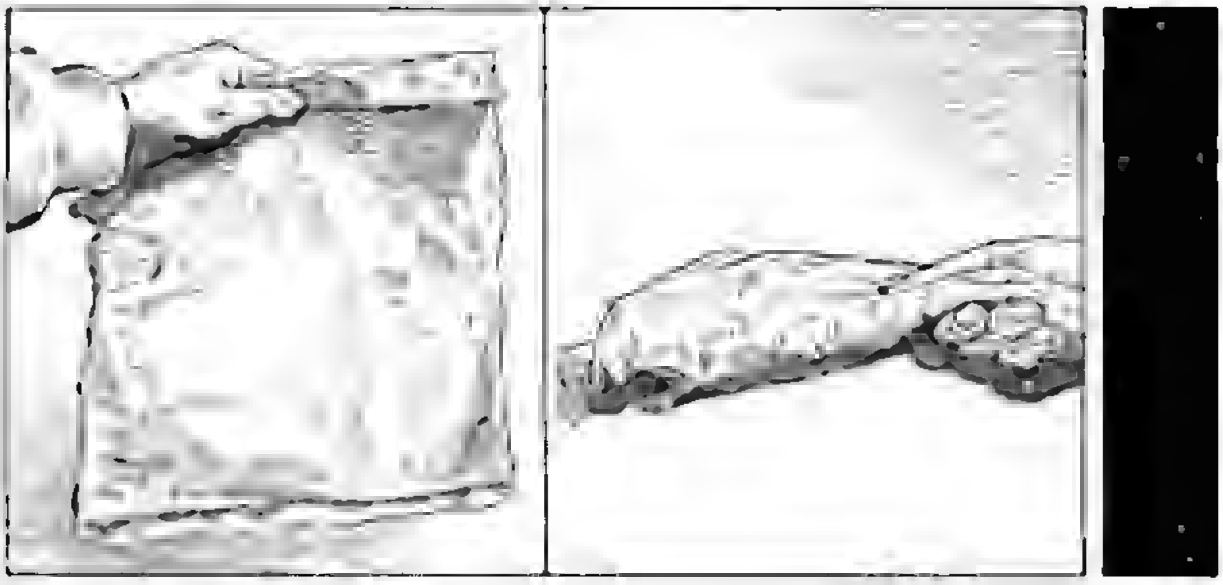
Ba-dum Ba-dum Ba-dum
WHA, WHA, WHA, WHAT IS IT?


THAT'S WHY I'M GONNA ASK YOU AGAIN.
I'M ALSO PUTTING MY LIFE ON THE LINE.

...BUT NO AMOUNT OF MONEY CAN GET YOU THAT IN ONE RUN BY SOUTHERNERS.
YOU'D THINK YOU CAN GET ONE ON THE BLACK MARKET...
THEY ONLY SELL THEM TO GUYS WHOM THEY REALLY TRUST.

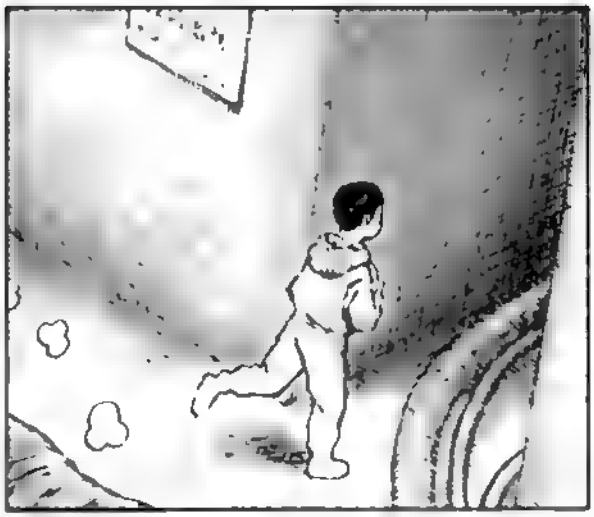
THE GUN.

THE GUN IS PAYMENT FOR BEING THE MIDDLEMAN!
JUST GET ME ONE SOMEHOW.
WHOOOOOOSH



ONE DAY AGO...

AH?
WAH!

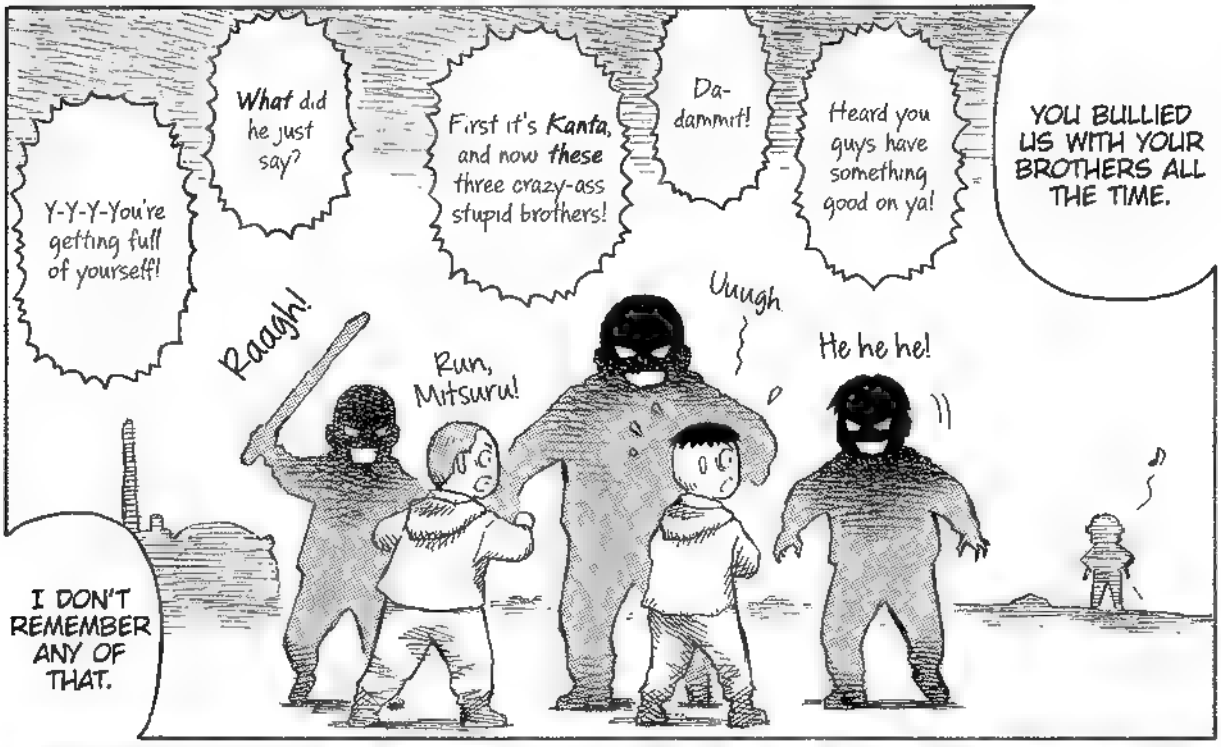


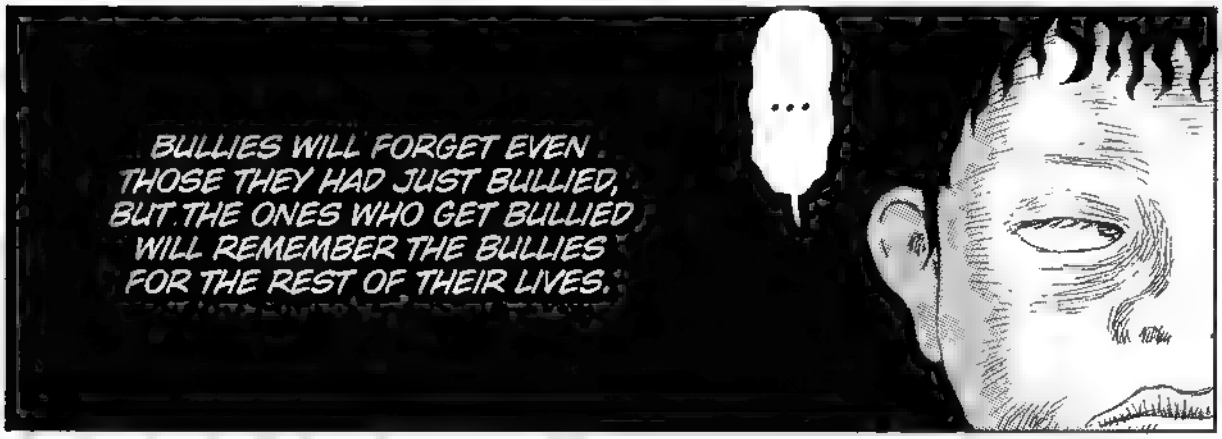
THUD

WHAT'S A LAB RAT LIKE YOU DOING OUT HERE WANDERING ABOUT?
MENACE
A-
...A-AKIO...
I-I-I'M VERY SORRY.

THAT WAS KAWAZU KOUJI.
HE WAS BORN IN THE SOUTH OASIS,
AND WORKED AT THE CONSTRUCTION SITE IN THE SEAPORT TOWN WHERE WE LIVED.
Seaport town!
I worked part-time there once.

WHO WAS THAT JUST NOW?
I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE ACQUAINTED WITH ANY SOUTHERNERS.

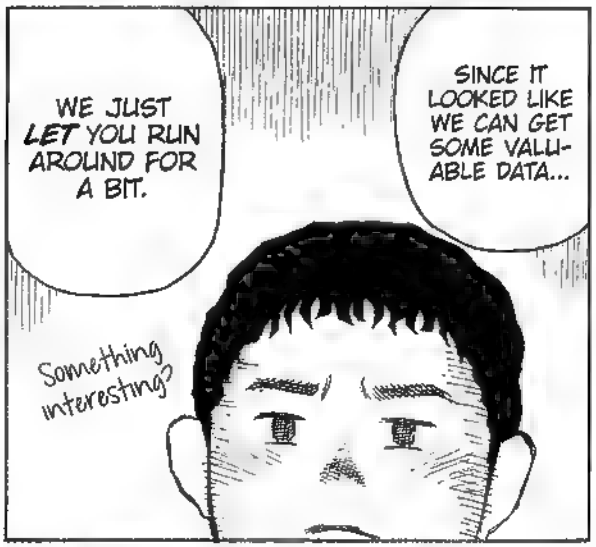

YOU BULLIED US WITH YOUR BROTHERS ALL THE TIME.
Heard you guys have something good on ya!
Da-dammit!
First it's **Kanta**, and now **these** three crazy-ass stupid brothers!
What did he just say?
Y-Y-Y-You're getting full of yourself!
Raagh!
Run, Mitsuru!
Uuugh
He he he!
I DON'T REMEMBER ANY OF THAT.


BULLIES WILL FORGET EVEN THOSE THEY HAD JUST BULLIED, BUT THE ONES WHO GET BULLIED WILL REMEMBER THE BULLIES FOR THE REST OF THEIR LIVES.
...

I HEARD YOU'RE UP TO SOMETHING INTERESTING.
...

YOU REALLY THINK NO ONE NOTICES?
I'M ON ESCORT DUTY.
WHAT ARE YOU UP TO, AKIO?
CAN'T LET ANYTHING HAPPEN TO OUR PRECIOUS LAB RAT.
...HUH?
You underestimate us

MR. IKEMITSU.

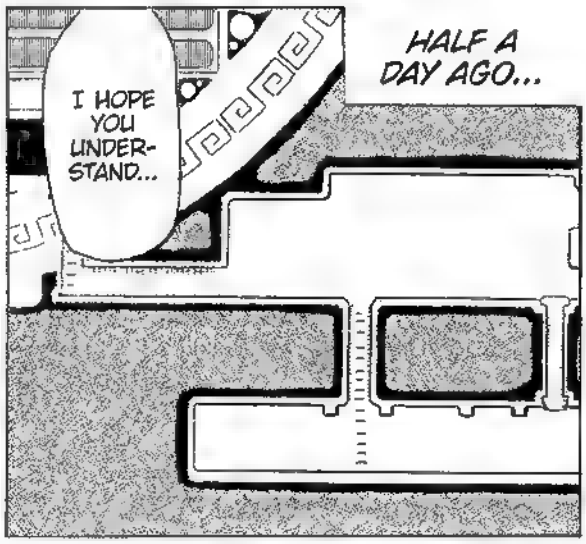

WE JUST LET YOU RUN AROUND FOR A BIT.
SINCE IT LOOKED LIKE WE CAN GET SOME VALUABLE DATA...
Something interesting?

AH...
Appears
SERIOUSLY, YOU.

TAKEN MEA-SURES?

I TOLD YOU I'VE ALREADY TAKEN MEASURES.
YOU FINE WITH THAT?
HEY, HE GAVE THE GUN AWAY.

...THAT WHAT YOU FUCKING DID THERE...


I HOPE YOU UNDER-STAND...
HALF A DAY AGO...

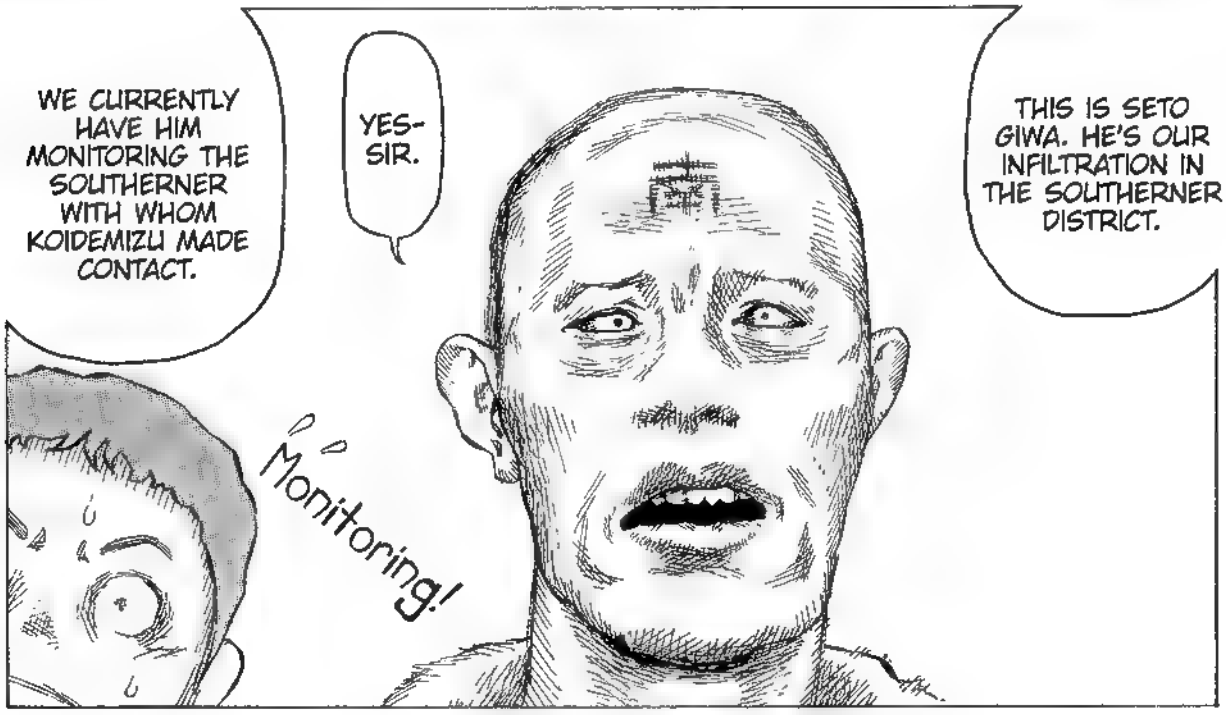
KO-KOU WON'T SAY A THING.

...IS GONNA PUT OUR COMRADES IN DANGER.

HEY THERE.
CLANG
YO.
THUD

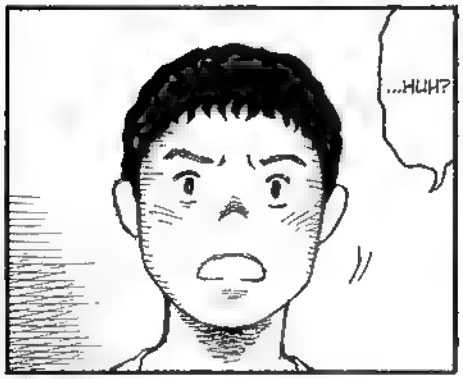
A LOOSE TONGUE LIKE HIM WILL SPILL *EVERYTHING* IF YOU GIVE HIS ARM A LITTLE TWIST.
Ba-dum
SO HE *RAN HIS MOUTH* ABOUT THE BLACK MARKET JUST LIKE THAT TO YOU, *DIDN'T* HE?
Ba-dum Ba-dum
Ba-dum

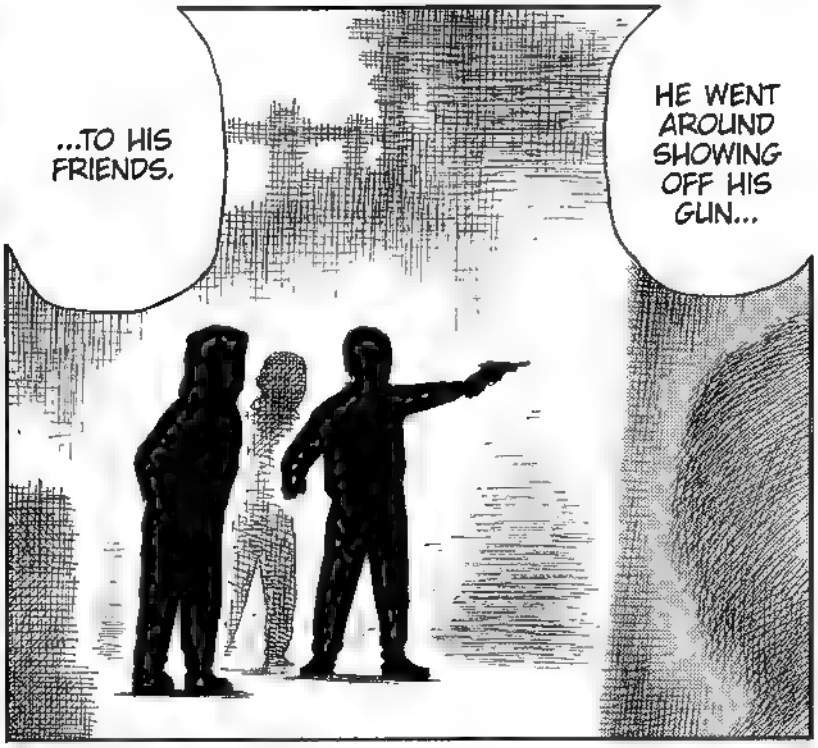
SETO GIWA, COMING IN!
Hafer
Beep

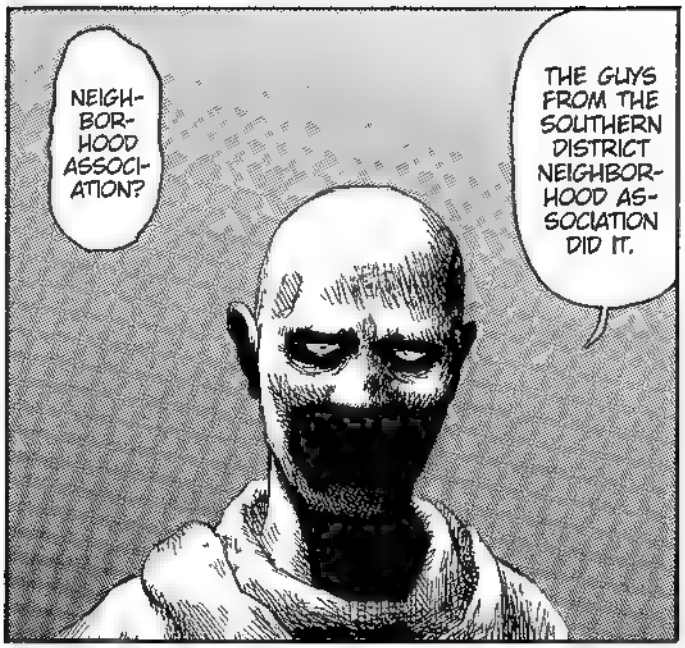

WE CURRENTLY HAVE HIM MONITORING THE SOUTHERNER WITH WHOM KOIDEMIZU MADE CONTACT.
YES-SIR.
THIS IS SETO GIWA. HE'S OUR INFILTRATION IN THE SOUTHERNER DISTRICT.
Monitoring!

HE'S DEAD.

WHAT HAP-PENED?
If you took the time to come here, that means...
SO?

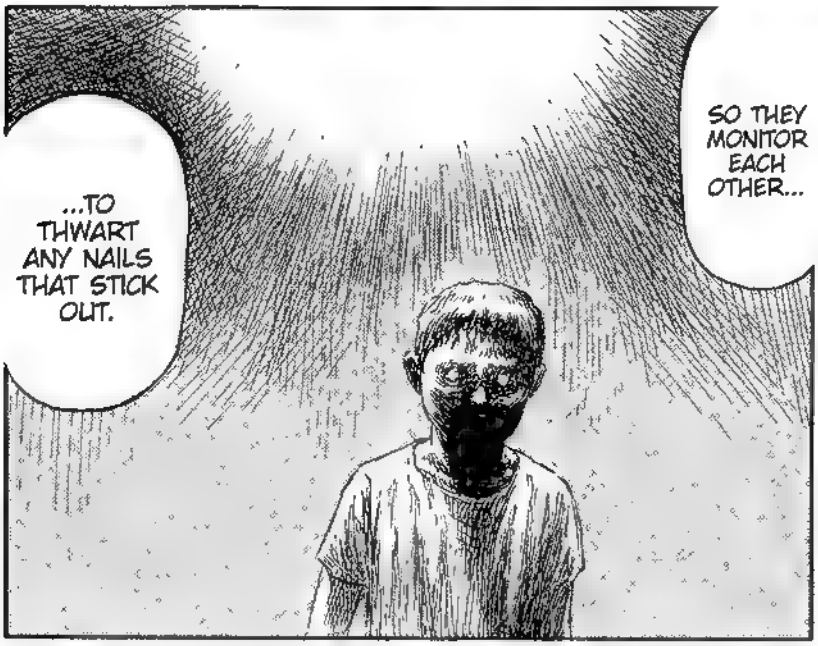

...HUH?


...TO HIS FRIENDS.
HE WENT AROUND SHOWING OFF HIS GUN...


NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION?
THE GUYS FROM THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION DID IT.

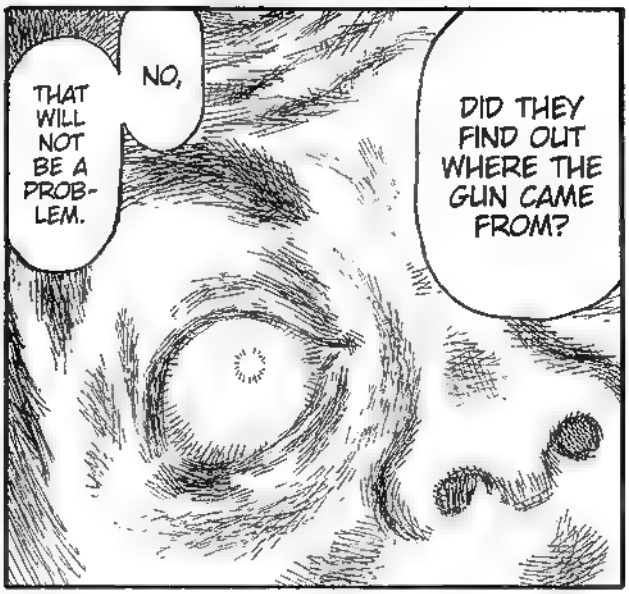
CHILL OUT.
It was you guys!
DON'T TELL ME, BY "TAKEN MEASURES..."
Flatter

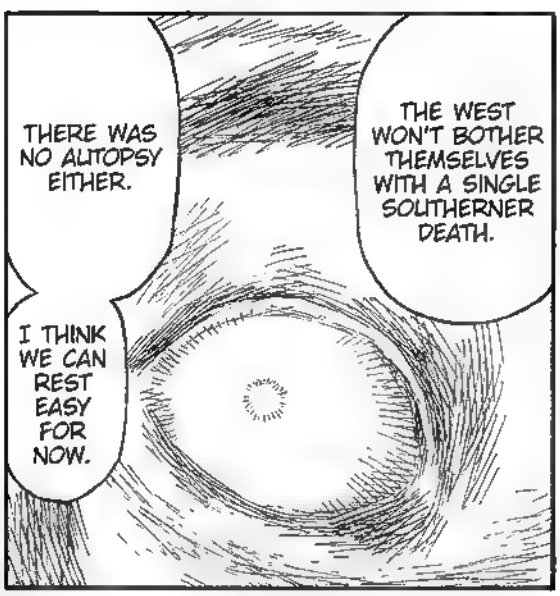
TO THE WEST, THEY ARE A TOP-QUALITY POPULATION BORN OF AN ENEMY NATION.
IT'S A GROUP ENDURING THE CURRENT HARDSHIPS AND ARE DESPERATELY WAITING OUT THE STORM.

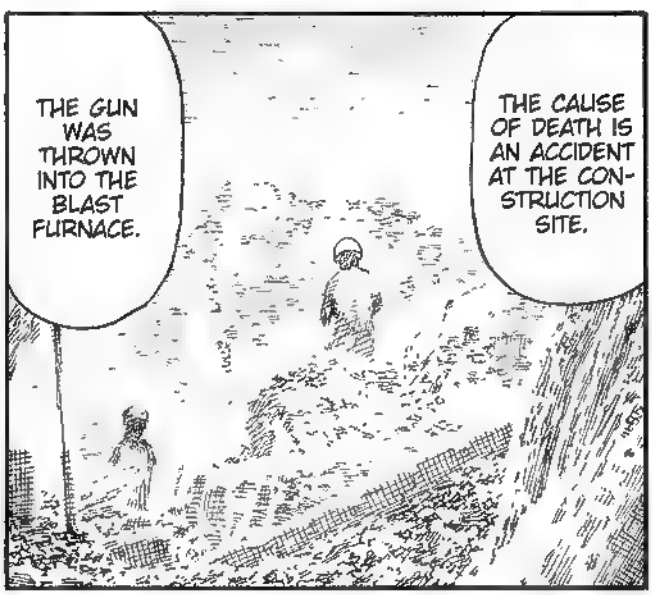

...TO THWART ANY NAILS THAT STICK OUT.
SO THEY MONITOR EACH OTHER...

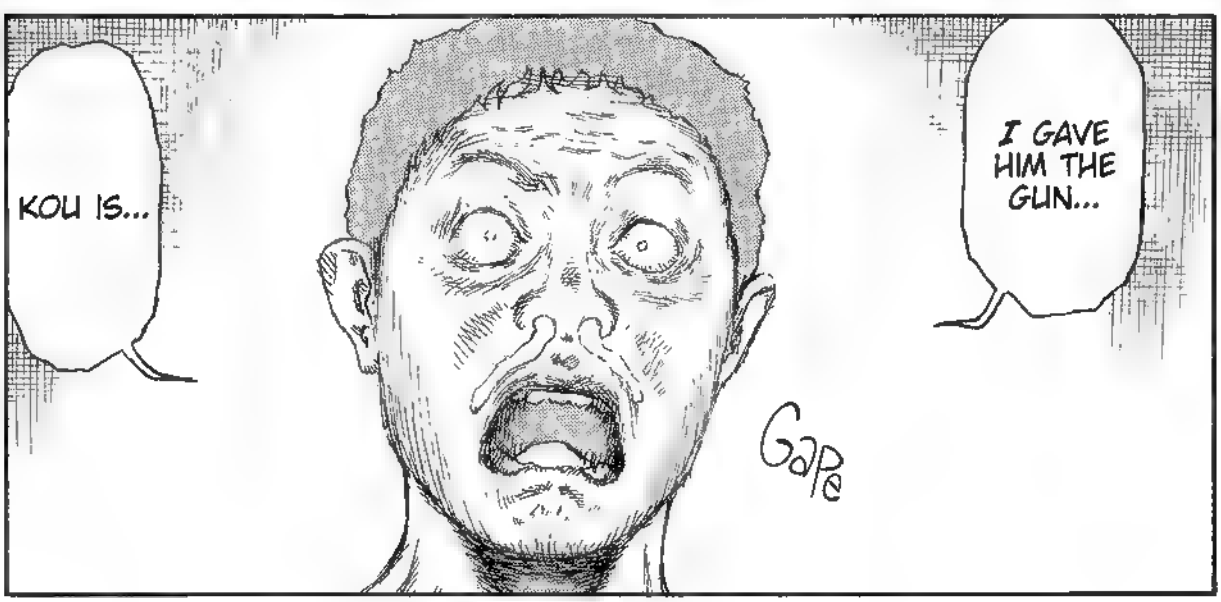
THEY ARE THE MOST AFRAID OF THE WEST KEEPING AN EYE ON THEM.
WH-WHY WOULD THEY HAVE KOU...

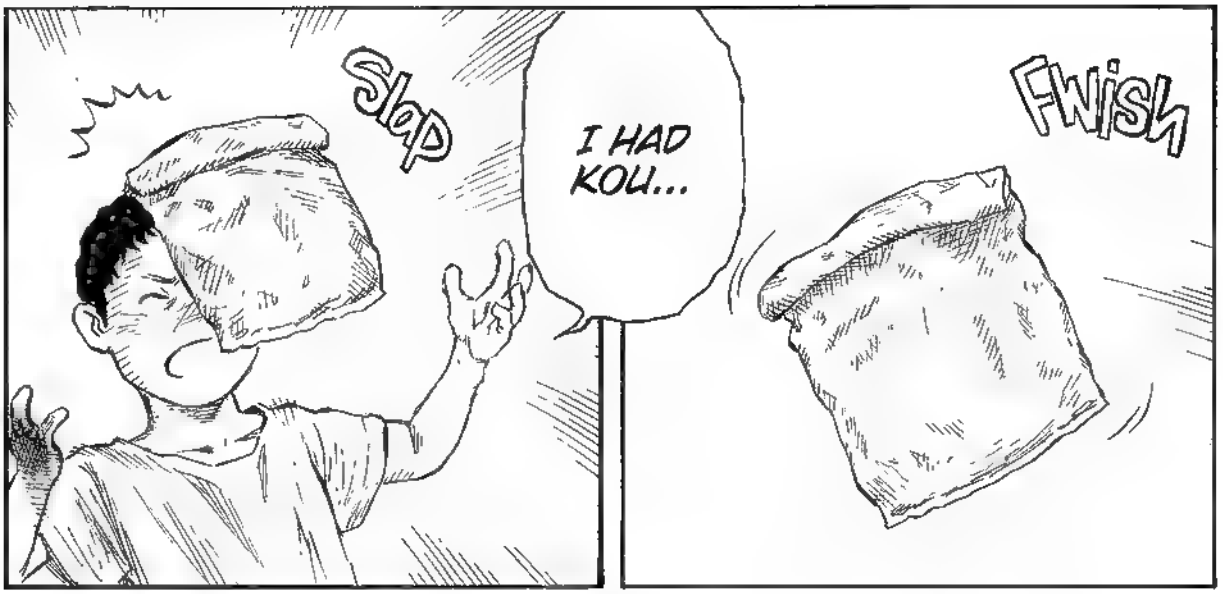
THEY PANIC AT EVERY LITTLE THING AND WILL DISPOSE OF IT THEN AND THERE.
CURRENTLY, THE SOUTHERNERS ARE GOING THROUGH A VERY ROUGH PATCH.

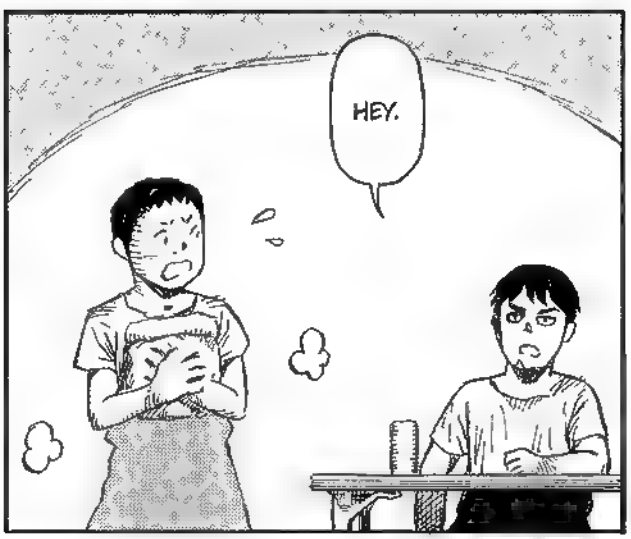

NO, THAT WILL NOT BE A PROB-LEM.
DID THEY FIND OUT WHERE THE GUN CAME FROM?

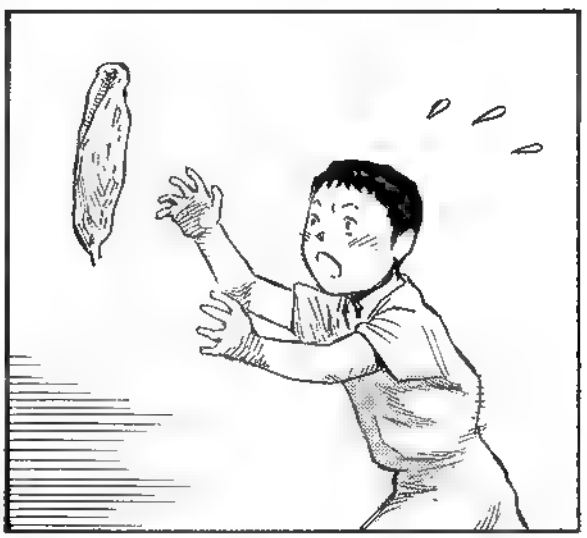

THERE WAS NO AUTOPSY EITHER.
THE WEST WON'T BOTHER THEMSELVES WITH A SINGLE SOUTHERNER DEATH.
I THINK WE CAN REST EASY FOR NOW.


THE GUN WAS THROWN INTO THE BLAST FURNACE.
THE CAUSE OF DEATH IS AN ACCIDENT AT THE CON-STRUCTION SITE.

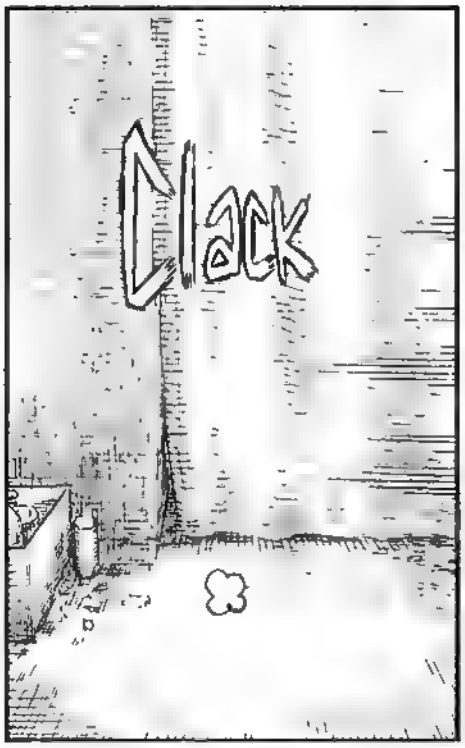

KOU IS...
I GAVE HIM THE GUN...
GaPe


Slap
I HAD KOU...
Fwish

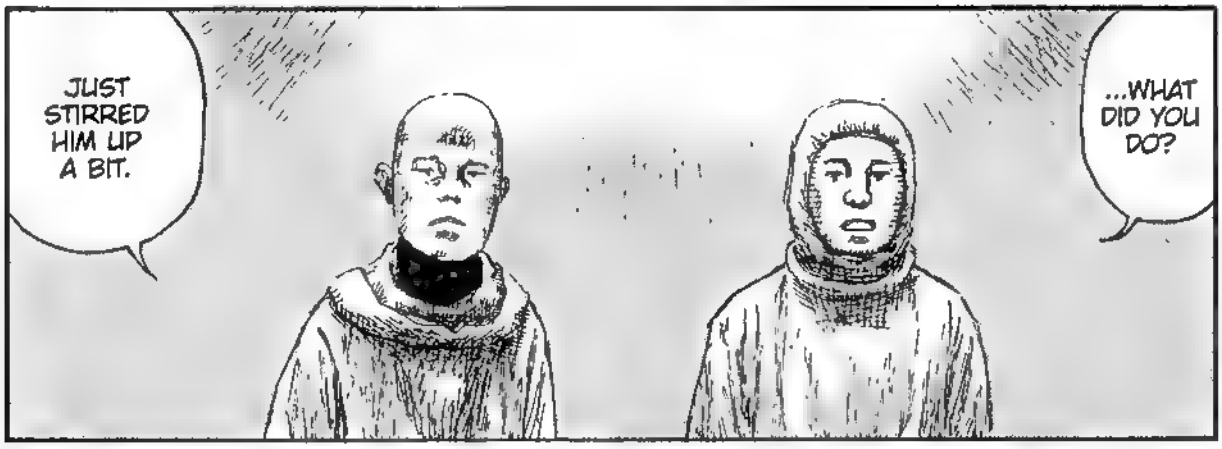

HEY.



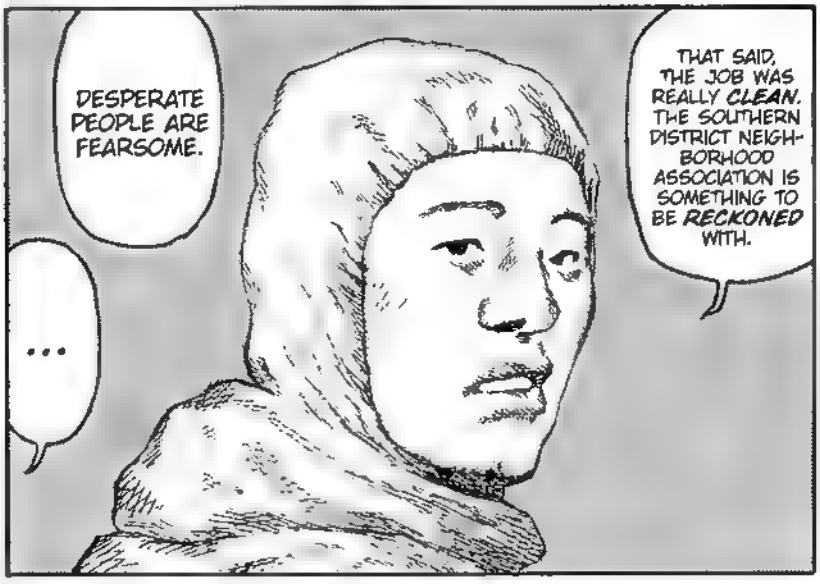
WEREN'T YOU MAKING SOME LIZARD SOUP FOR KOIZUMI?


Clack

Plod
Plod


JUST STIRRED HIM UP A BIT.
...WHAT DID YOU DO?

TSK.

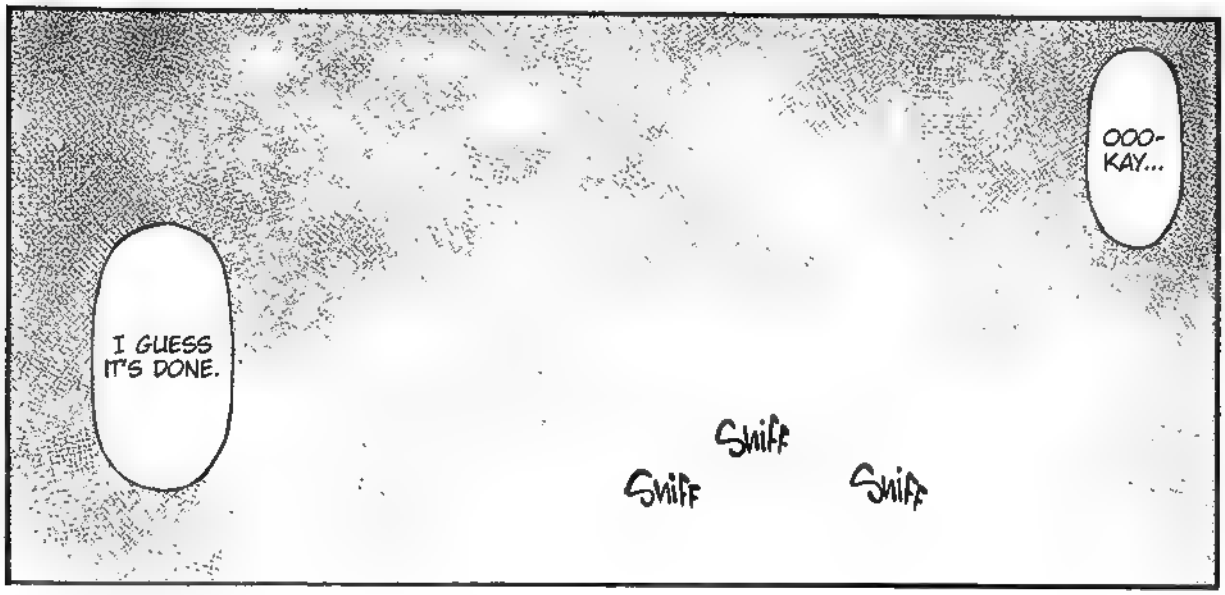

DESPERATE PEOPLE ARE FEARSOME.
...
THAT SAID, THE JOB WAS REALLY *CLEAN*. THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION IS SOMETHING TO BE *RECKONED* WITH.

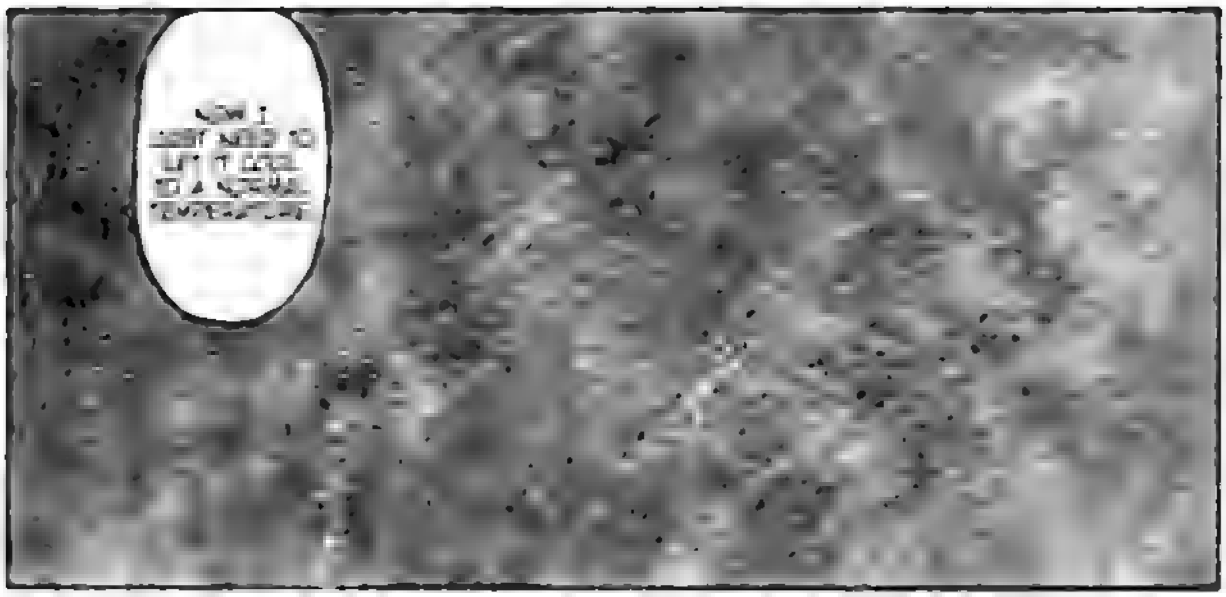
...

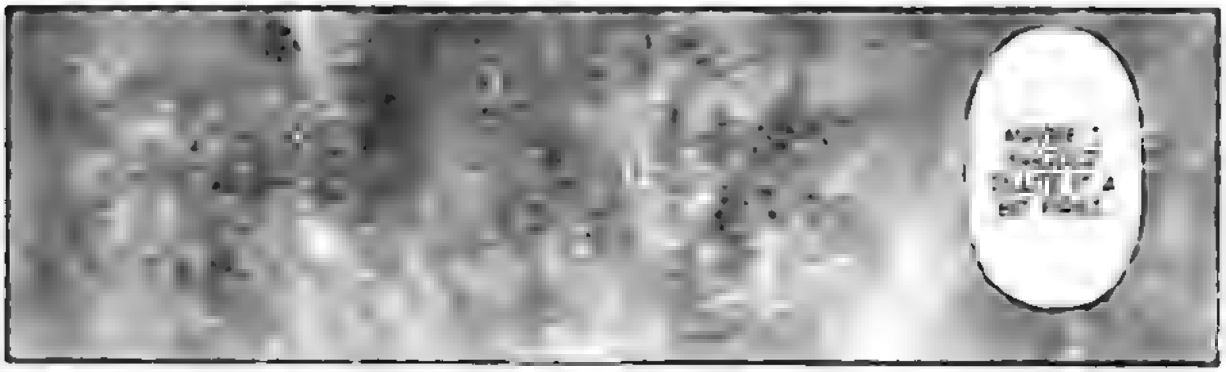
THAT WAS TOO MUCH RISK!

WE GOT WHAT IT WAS WORTH.

NOW...


OOO-KAY...
I GUESS IT'S DONE.
Sniff
Sniff
Sniff





I WONDER IF SHE WILL DRINK IT...

VOL. 105

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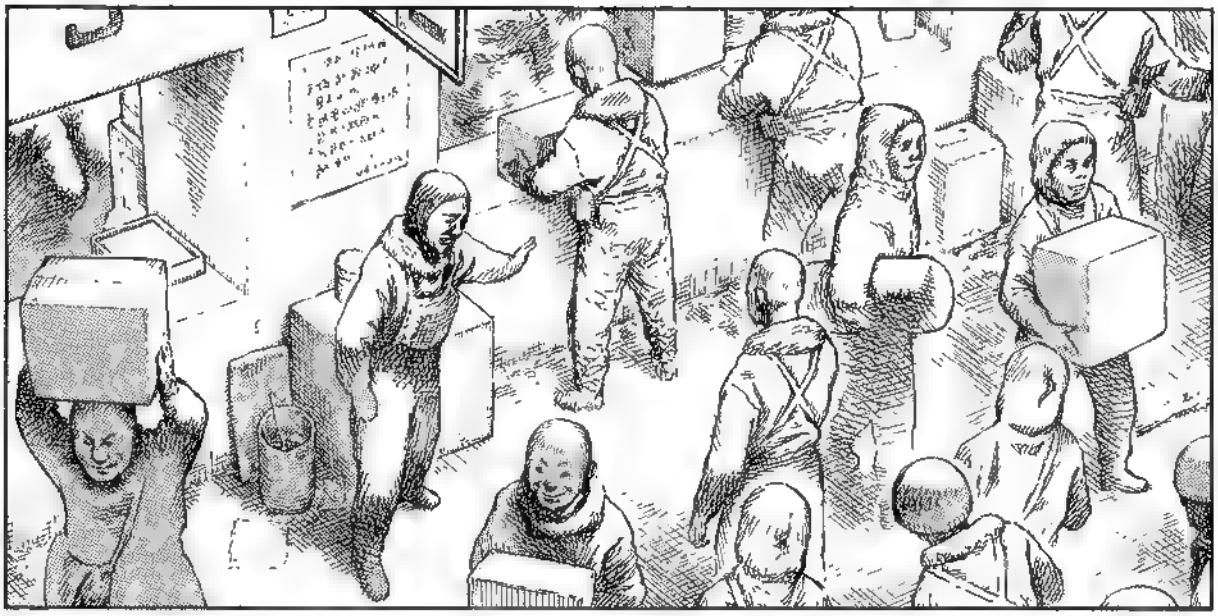
SIGN: WEST OASIS STRATEGIC HAMLET NO.14

西オアシス
第14戦略村



IT'S A PREFAB DISTRICT. SURE IT GOES DOWN EASY, BUT PATCHING IT UP IS ALSO EASY.

Gloom

LOOKS LIKE WE FIXED IT UP GOOD.

ON HELMET: WEST

WE OWE *EVERYTHING* TO YOU, COMMANDER.

THANK YOU SO MUCH.

AS A RESULT, THE RECON-STRUCTION WORK WAS FINISHED SOONER THAN EXPECTED.

WE STRUCK A DEAL WITH THE GOVERNMENT TO HAVE PRIORITY IN GETTING SUPPLIES.

Behold! The mythical Ration G!

I'm gonna kill you

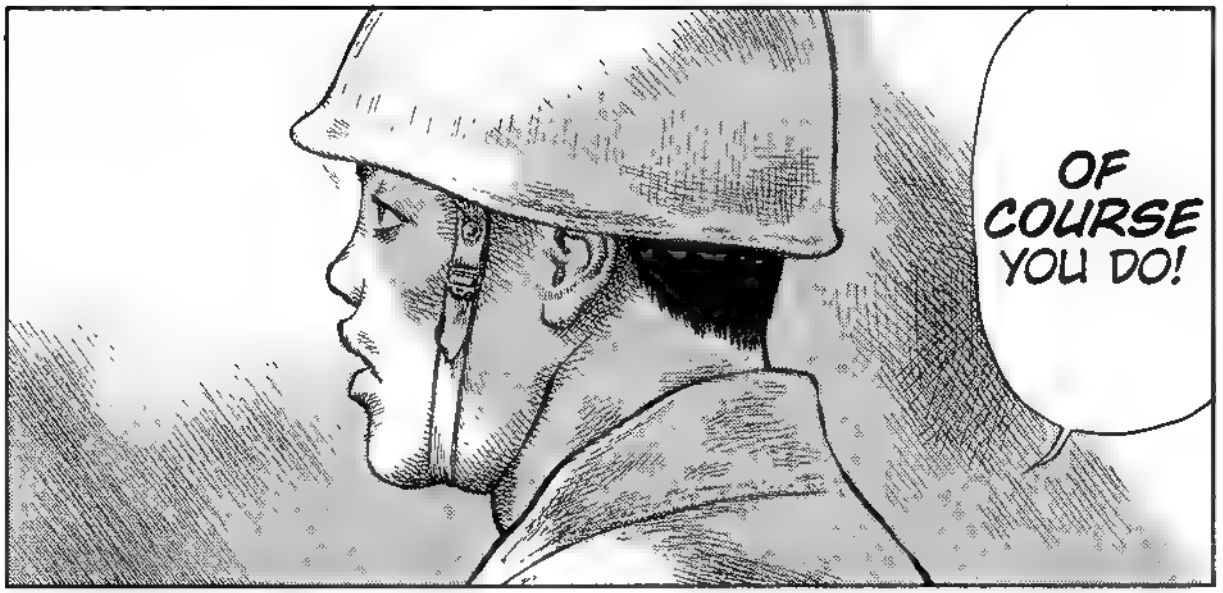
It's B4 What? D? That's E man

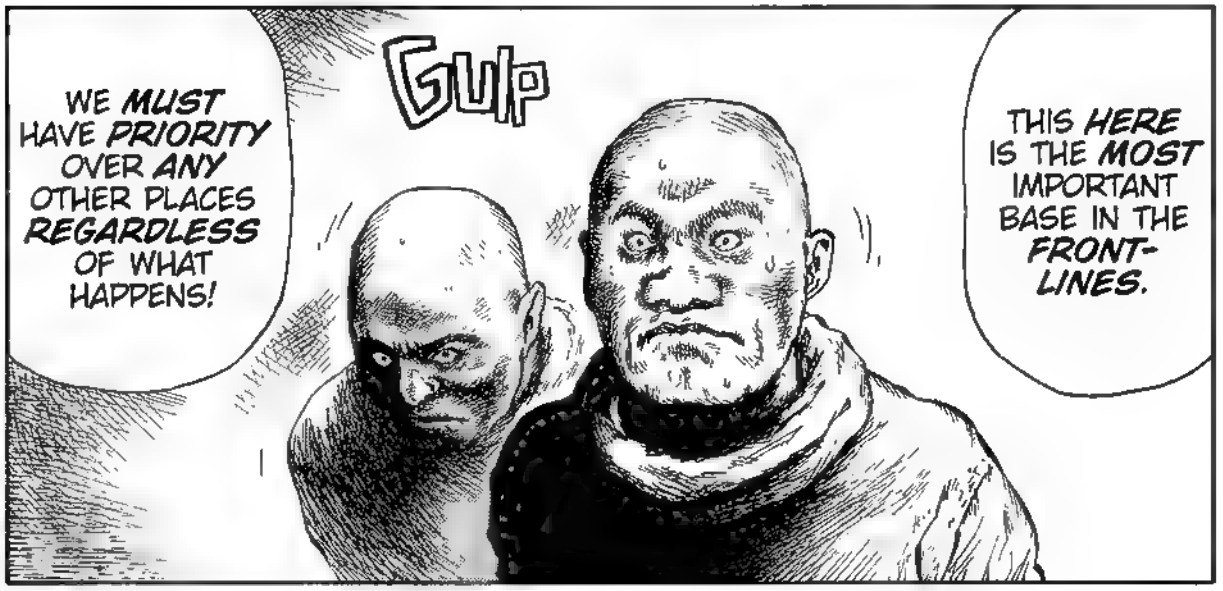
Ahahaha-hahaha-hahaha.

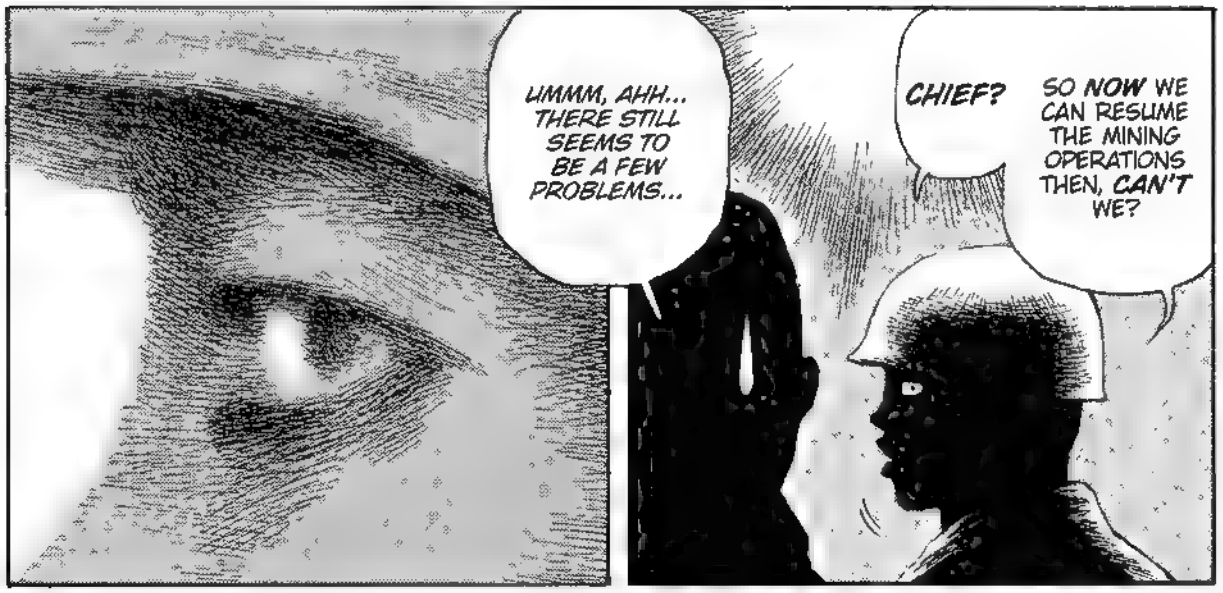
Eh?

Erm, oh I see

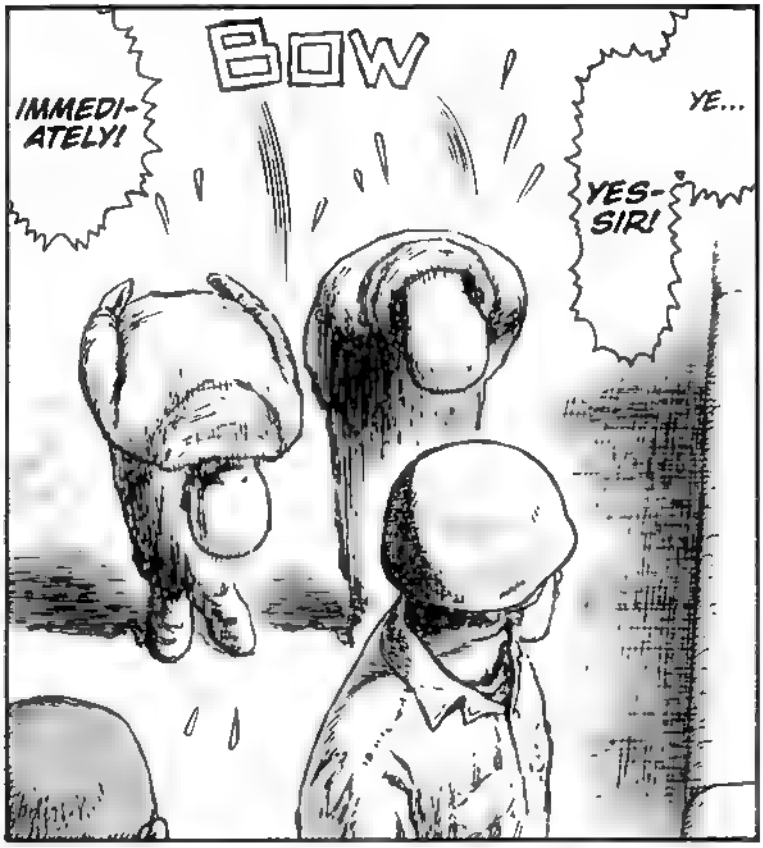
All clear, all clear

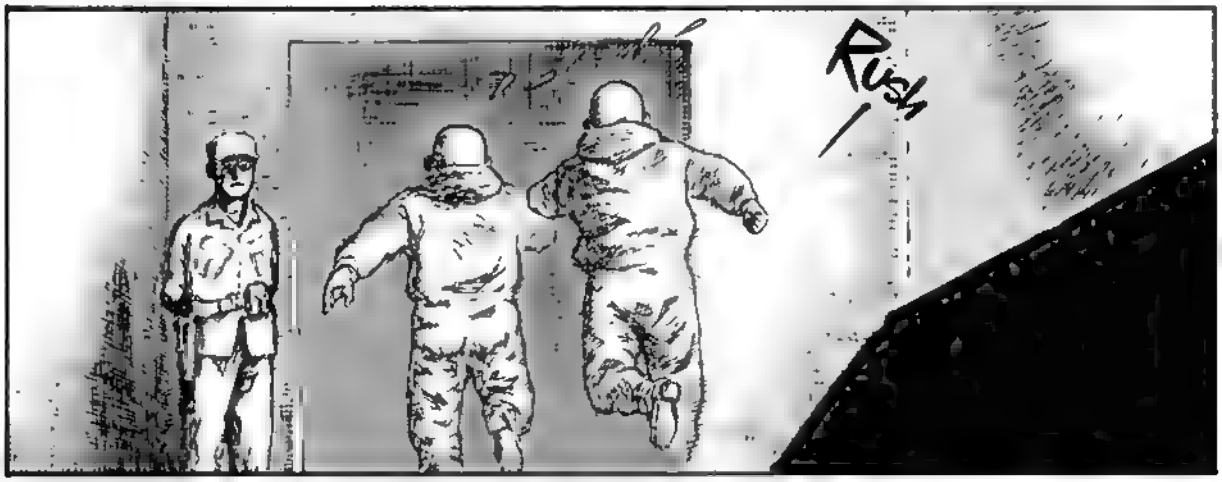

OF COURSE YOU DO!


WE MUST HAVE PRIORITY OVER ANY OTHER PLACES REGARDLESS OF WHAT HAPPENS!
GULP
THIS HERE IS THE MOST IMPORTANT BASE IN THE FRONT-LINES.

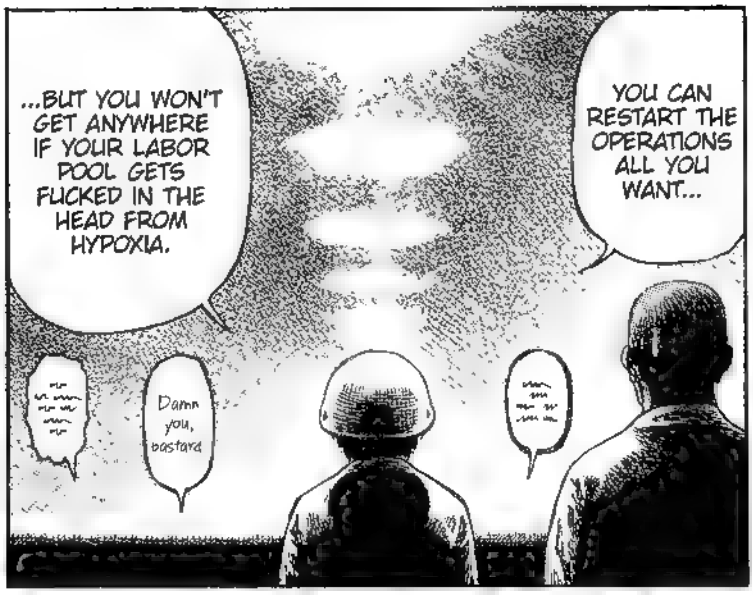

UMMM, AHH... THERE STILL SEEMS TO BE A FEW PROBLEMS...
CHIEF?
SO NOW WE CAN RESUME THE MINING OPERATIONS THEN, CAN'T WE?

YOU ARE TO RESUME THE MINING OPERATIONS, NOW!
TEAMS WITH NO WORK AT HAND, DESCEND INTO THE TUNNEL AT ONCE!


BOW
IMMEDIATELY!
YE...
YES-SIR!

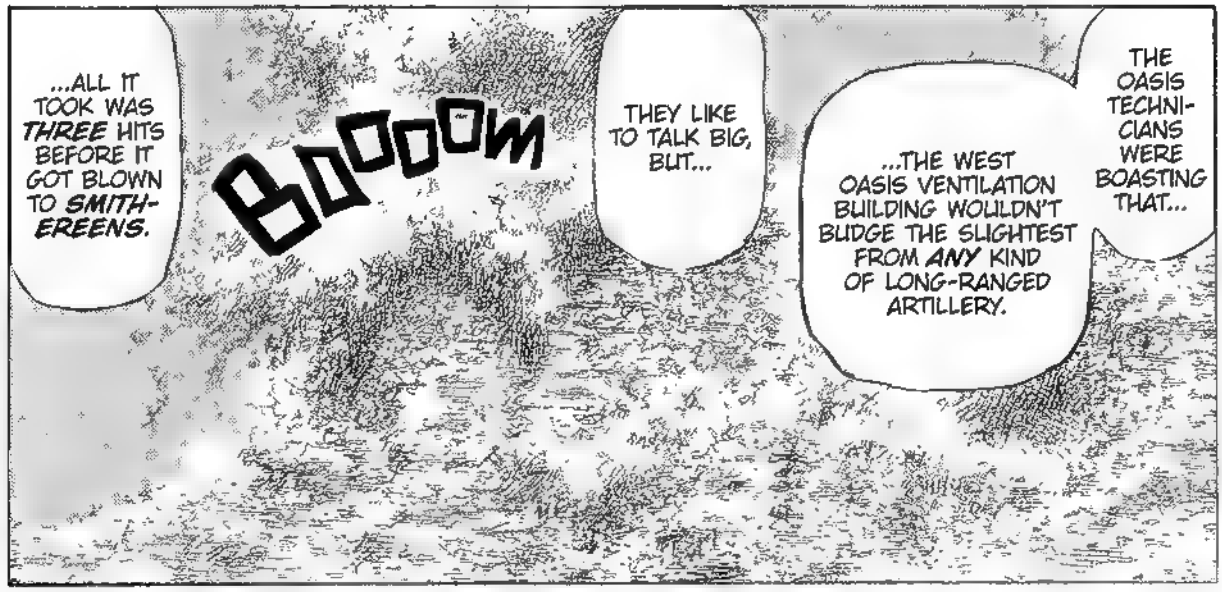

Rush

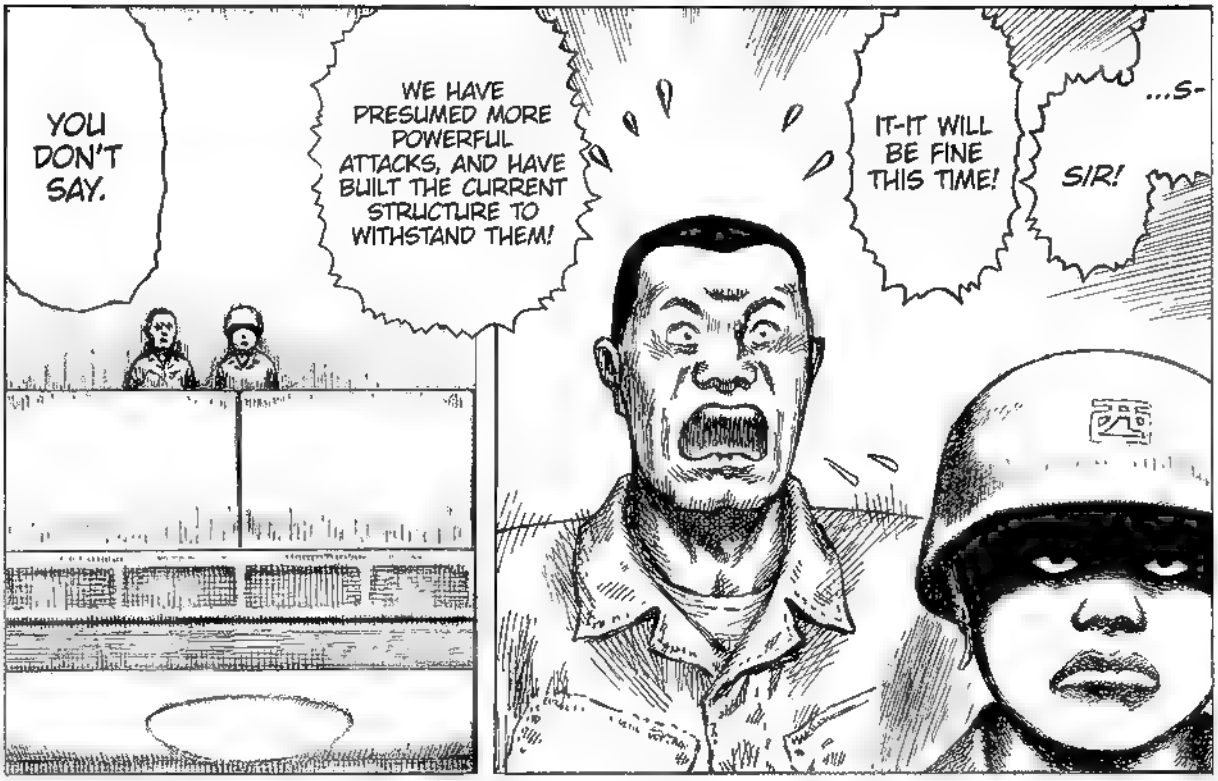
HMPH.

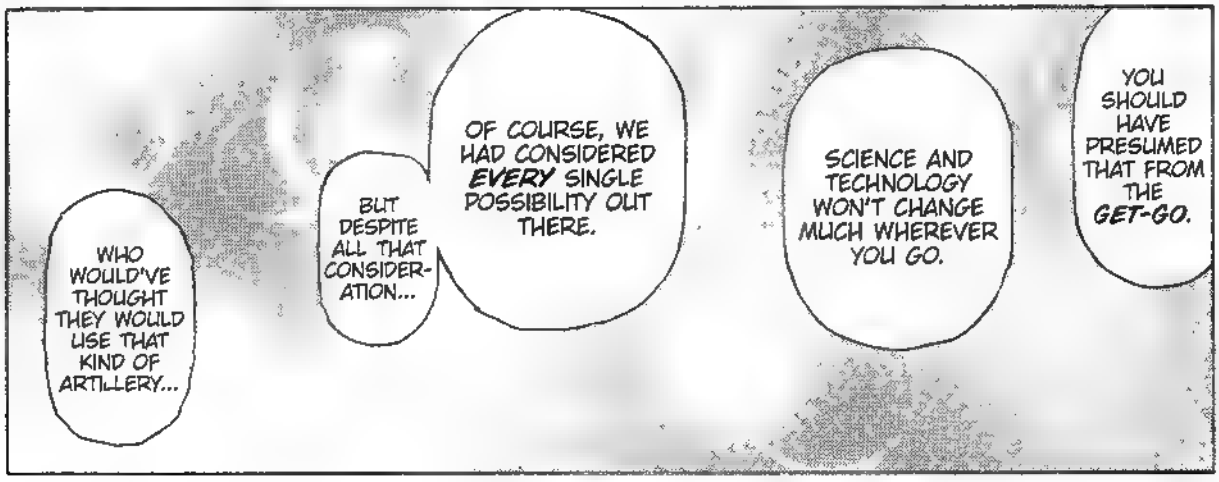

...BUT YOU WON'T GET ANYWHERE IF YOUR LABOR POOL GETS FUCKED IN THE HEAD FROM HYPOXIA.
YOU CAN RESTART THE OPERATIONS ALL YOU WANT...
Damn you, bastard

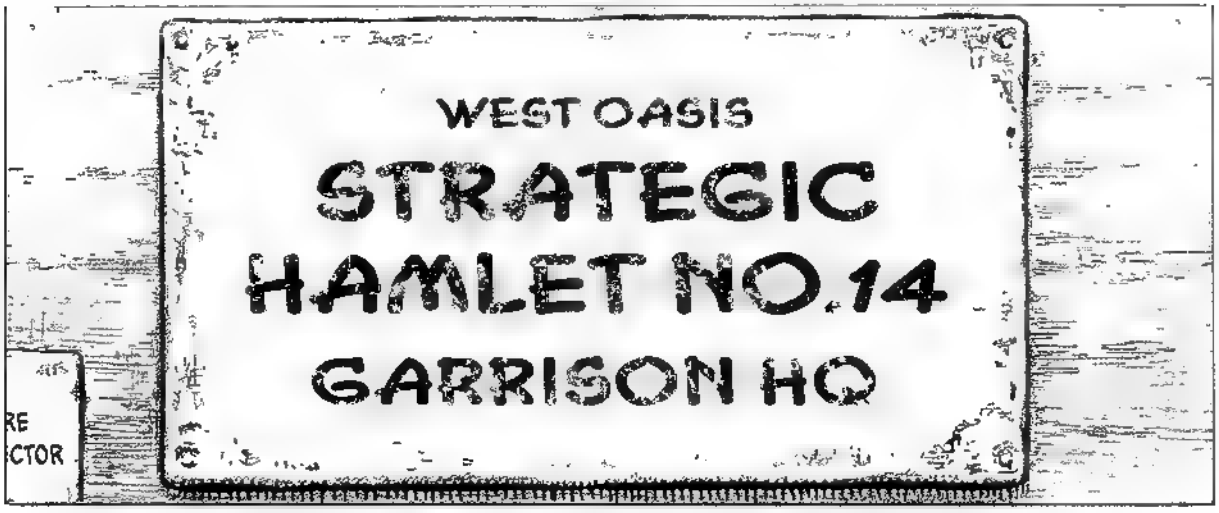
SIR! ALL IS WELL!
THE NEW BUILDING 4 HAD BETTER BE FINE.

UNTIL THEN, WE WILL HAVE TO MAKE DO WITH MOBILE FANS AND OXYGEN TANKS!
WE WILL DEFINITELY HAVE OPERATIONS UP AND RUNNING WITHIN A MONTH!
HIGATA MAMORU
29 YEARS OLD
WEST OASIS
STRATEGIC HAMLET NO.14
VICE-COMMANDER


...ALL IT TOOK WAS THREE HITS BEFORE IT GOT BLOWN TO SMITHEREENS.
BOOOOM
THEY LIKE TO TALK BIG, BUT...
...THE WEST OASIS VENTILATION BUILDING WOULDN'T BUDGE THE SLIGHTEST FROM ANY KIND OF LONG-RANGED ARTILLERY.
THE OASIS TECHNICIANS WERE BOASTING THAT...


YOU DON'T SAY.
WE HAVE PRESUMED MORE POWERFUL ATTACKS, AND HAVE BUILT THE CURRENT STRUCTURE TO WITHSTAND THEM!
IT-IT WILL BE FINE THIS TIME!
...S-
SIR!


WHO WOULD'VE THOUGHT THEY WOULD USE THAT KIND OF ARTILLERY...
BUT DESPITE ALL THAT CONSIDERATION...
OF COURSE, WE HAD CONSIDERED EVERY SINGLE POSSIBILITY OUT THERE.
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY WON'T CHANGE MUCH WHEREVER YOU GO.
YOU SHOULD HAVE PRESUMED THAT FROM THE GET-GO.


WEST OASIS
STRATEGIC HAMLET NO.14
GARRISON HQ

WE HAVE DISCOVERED MULTIPLE TRACES OF SOUTH OASIS SPIES WORKING TOGETHER WITH LOCAL COLLAB-ORATORS IN THE UNINVESTIGATED PARTS OF THE RUIN!

REPORTING ON OUR FINDINGS FOR THE EXPLOSION OF BUILDING 4 ON FEBRUARY 10TH!

...THAT THE ENEMY HAS BEEN PROWLING AROUND IN THESE PARTS FOR AT LEAST THREE MONTHS.

JUDGING FROM ARTICLES LEFT BEHIND, WE DISCOVERED...

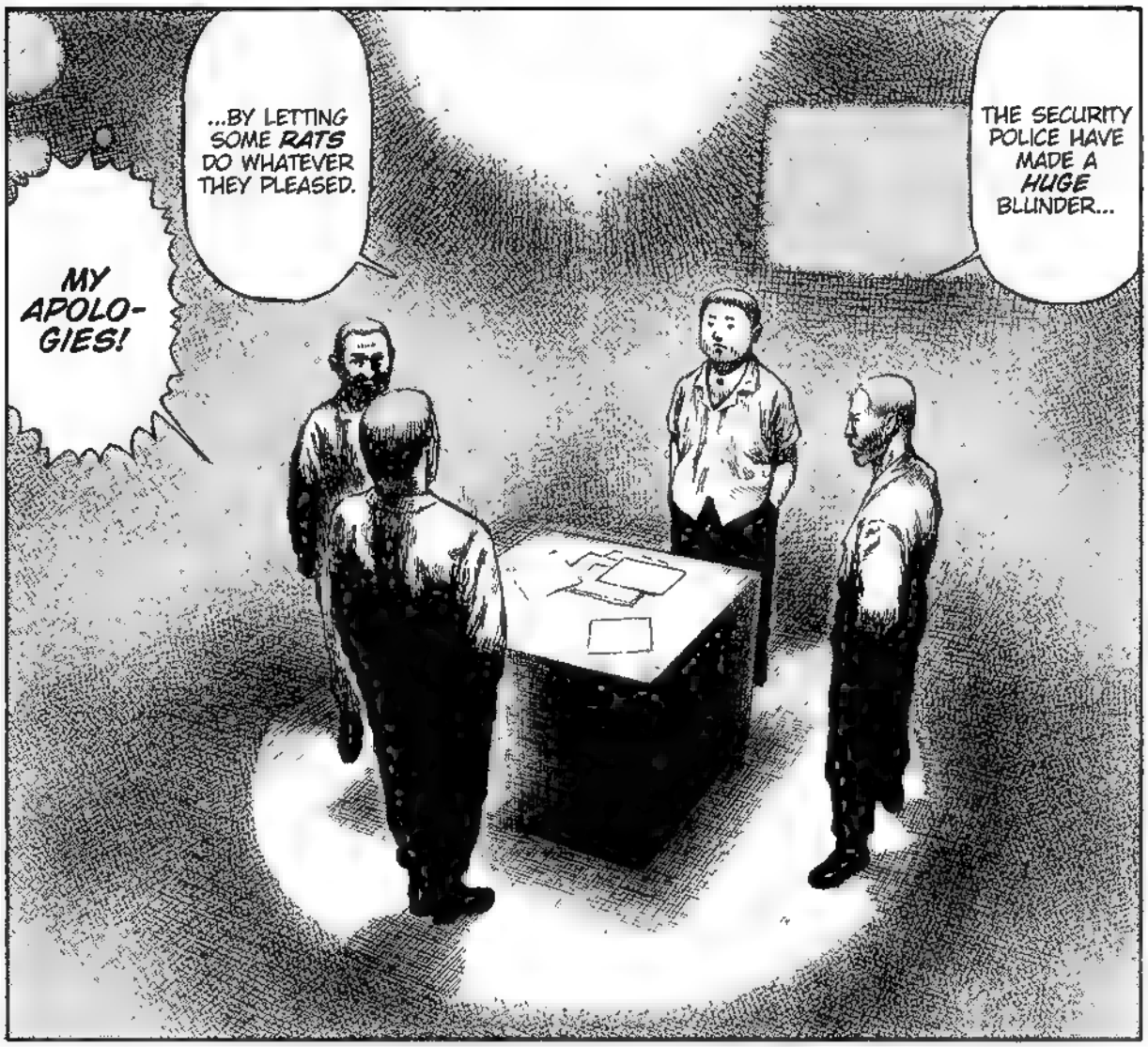
...THAT MUCH TIME PREPPING FOR THE FIGHT?

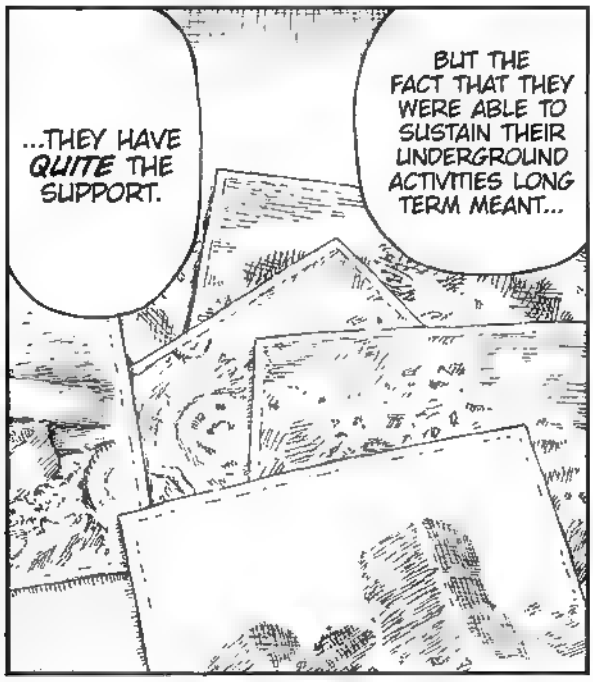
SO, THEY'VE SPENT

SO, YOU'RE SAYING WE HAD RATS DOING A BUNCH OF HOLE-DIGGING AND SHITTING RIGHT UNDER OUR NOSES?

THREE MONTHS

FUCK!

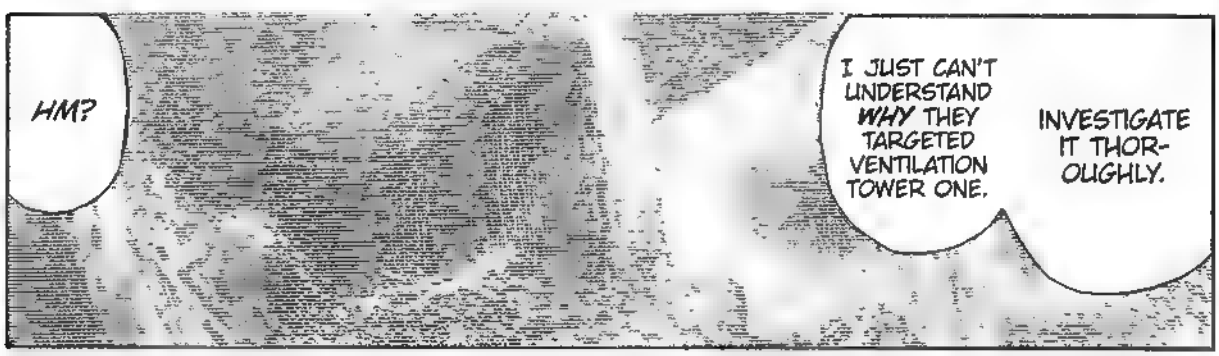

MY APOLOGIES!
...BY LETTING SOME RATS DO WHATEVER THEY PLEASED.
THE SECURITY POLICE HAVE MADE A HUGE BLUNDER...


...THEY HAVE QUITE THE SUPPORT.
BUT THE FACT THAT THEY WERE ABLE TO SUSTAIN THEIR UNDERGROUND ACTIVITIES LONG TERM MEANT...

THEIR BASE SHOULD BE PRETTY CLOSE BY.
...WELL?

FIND AND EXPOSE THOSE TERRORIST DENS!
WE WILL DEFINITELY...
GARRISON CHIEF
MIZUOCHI TAMOTSU
28 YEARS OLD

WE ARE CURRENTLY ANALYZING THE ITEMS THEY LEFT BEHIND, AND INVESTIGATING THE AFOREMENTIONED TRACES.


HM?
I JUST CAN'T UNDERSTAND WHY THEY TARGETED VENTILATION TOWER ONE.
INVESTIGATE IT THOROUGHLY.

...BEHIND THIS THING HERE.
THERE'S NOTHING BUT MYSTERIES...
Show
I did quite a bit of investigating into this...

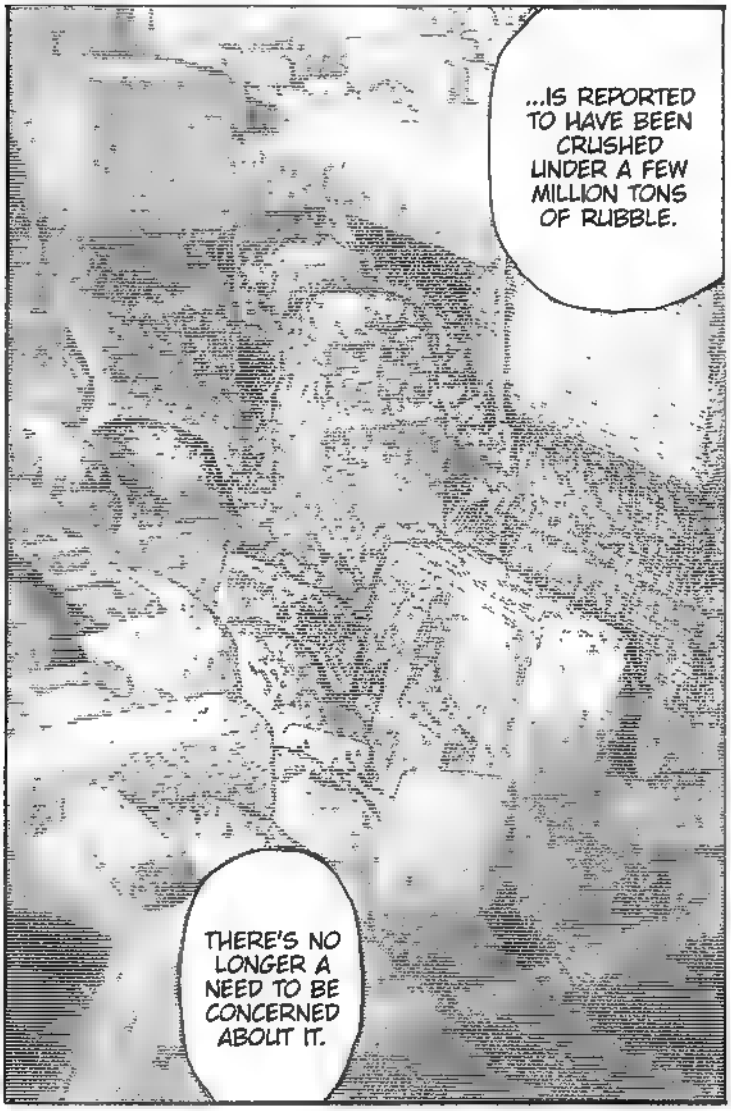
SPECIFICALLY...
INDEED.
Snuffle

...HELD IT AS A SYMBOL...
IF I MAY... TH-THE TERRORIST IN QUESTION WHO...

Tsk.
You have it with you! You carry it around 24/7!

WE HAVEN'T FOUND THE BODY YET, HAVE WE?
HUH?

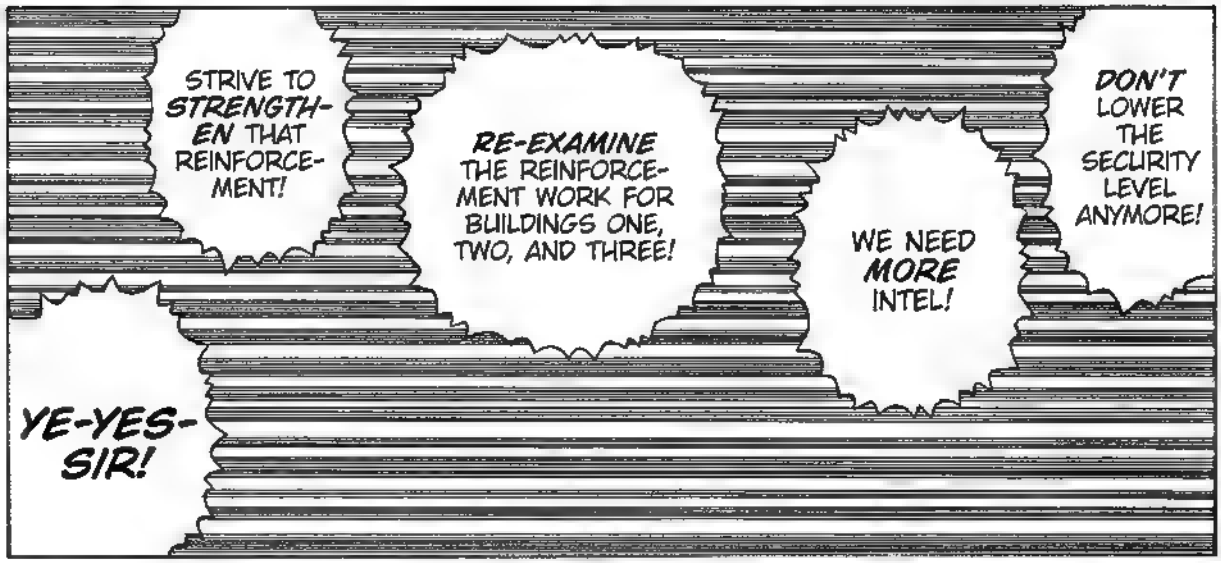
...IT'D TAKE DECADES TO DIG THEM UP....
HOW-EVER...
YE-YES SIR, THAT IS COR-RECT...


...IS REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN CRUSHED UNDER A FEW MILLION TONS OF RUBBLE.
THERE'S NO LONGER A NEED TO BE CONCERNED ABOUT IT.

HIS BODY HASN'T YET BEEN FOUND EITHER.
THAT STUPID *IDIOT* WHO CAUSED THE GREAT COLLAPSE?

...THE HURONI-FIED SOLDIER WHO PLUNGED THE TROOPS INTO CHAOS, MIZUSAKI...
SPEAK-ING OF WHICH...

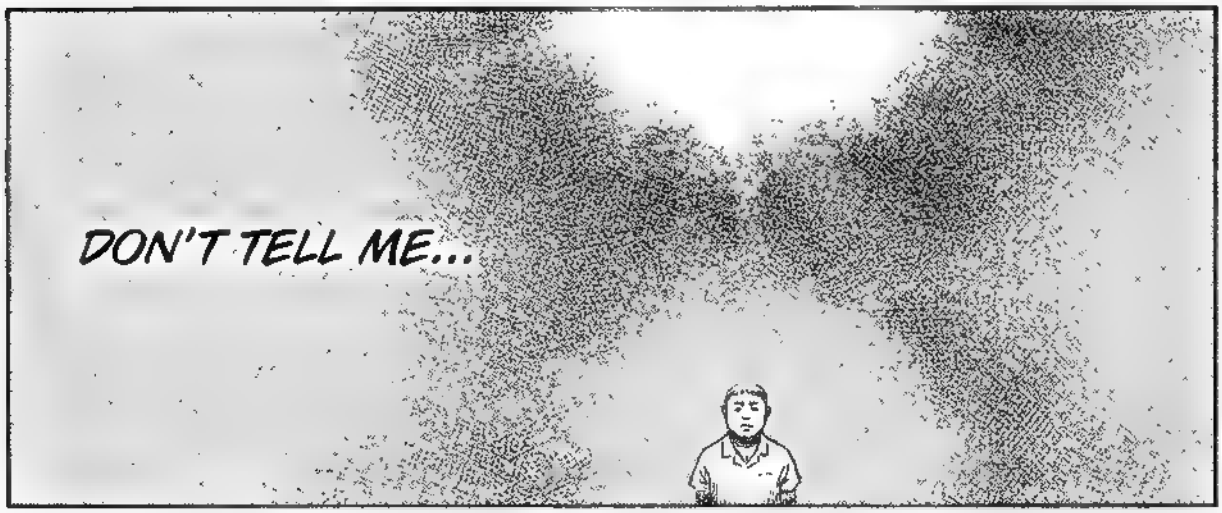
No way no way no way no way!
Nah nah nah nah...
DON'T TELL ME... THEY *BOTH* MANAGED TO *SURVIVE*?
TSK.

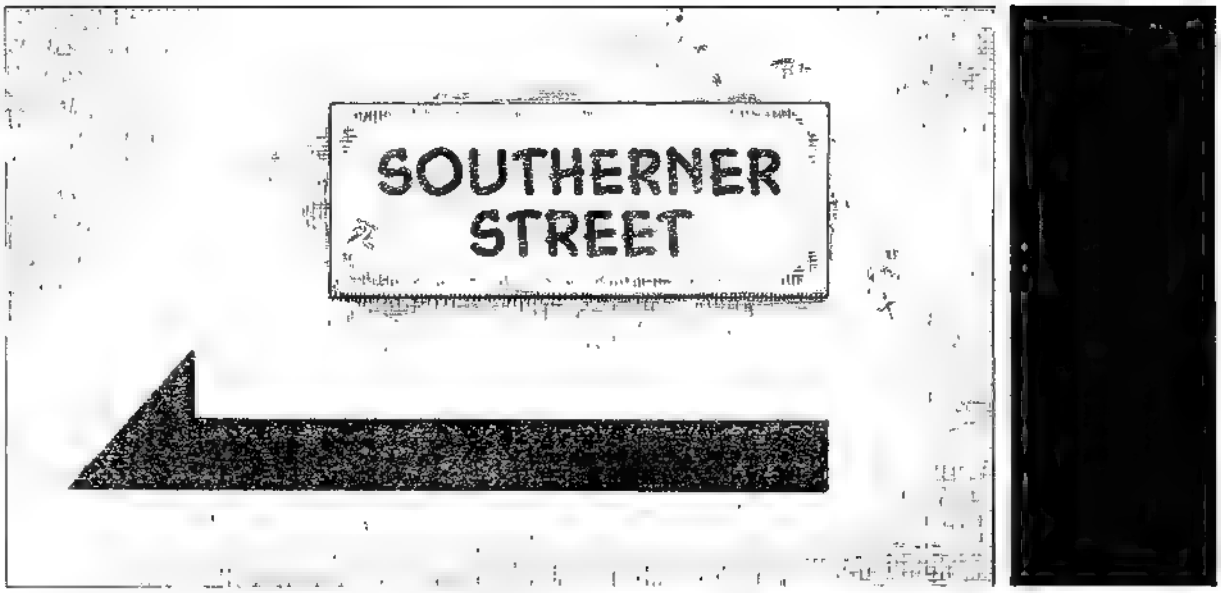

STRIVE TO *STRENGTH-EN* THAT REINFORCE-MENT!
RE-EXAMINE THE REINFORCE-MENT WORK FOR BUILDINGS ONE, TWO, AND THREE!
WE NEED *MORE* INTEL!
DON'T LOWER THE SECURITY LEVEL ANYMORE!
YE-YES-SIR!

...

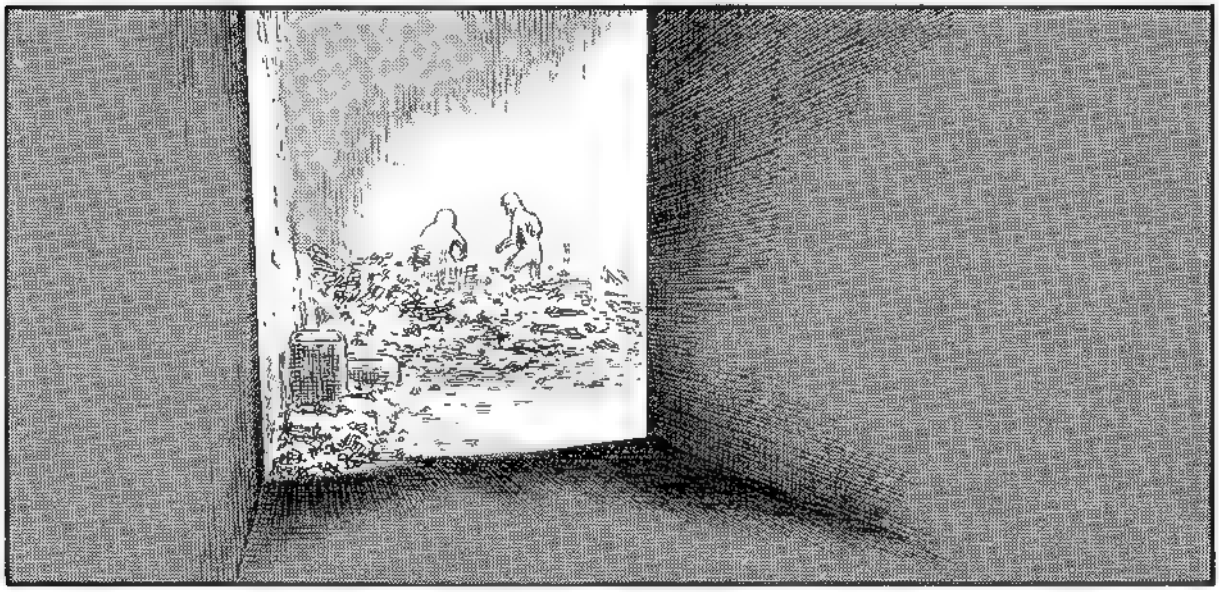
Stomp
Stomp
Stomp
Stomp
Clatter
SLAM

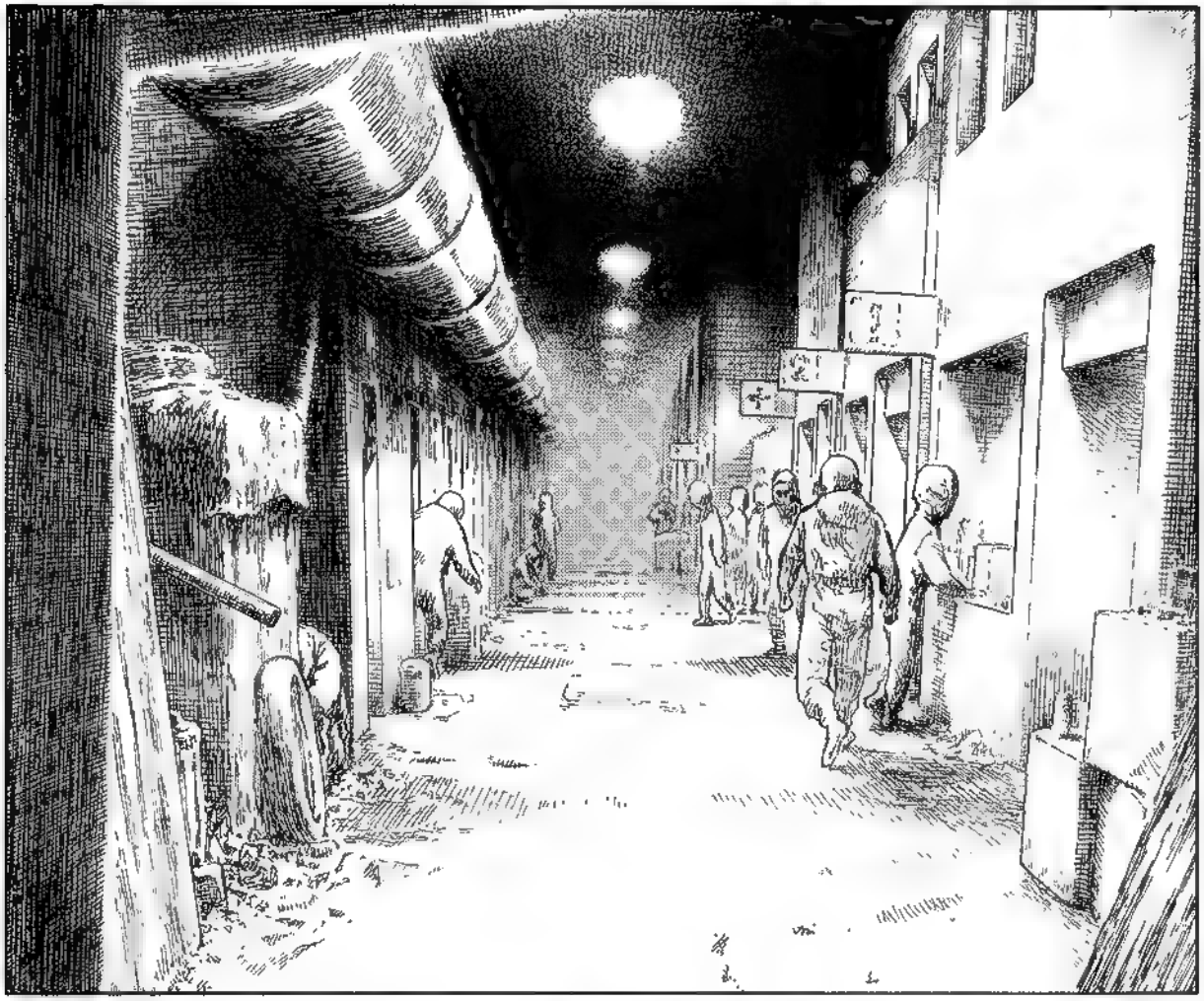
HURON, EH...


DON'T TELL ME...


SOUTHERNER
STREET

SOUTHERNER
STREET

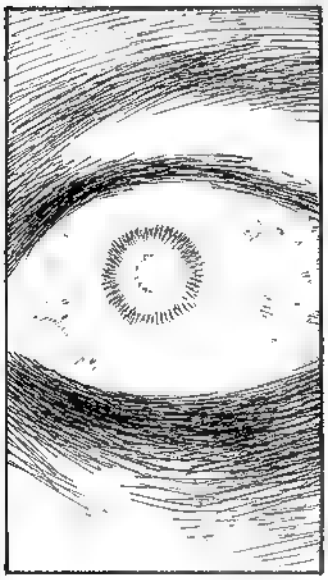




南

Fwaa
Fwaa
Fwaa

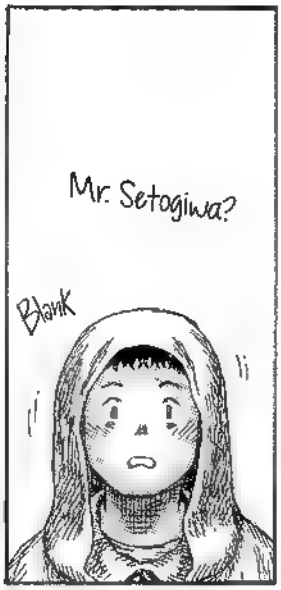
AH!



KRRK
Crackle
Pop

消防

Why am I here?
Huh?
Where's this?
Glance
Glance


Mr. Setogiwa?
Blank

YE... YEAH...

YOU GONNA TAKE DOWN KAWAZU KOUJI'S ENEMY?

IF YOU WANNA KILL, YOU CAN KILL ME INSTEAD.

BUT THEN I ALSO HELPED RAT HIM OUT.

SHOULD I TELL YOU?

I KNOW THE GUY WHO OFFED HIM.

WHO GAVE HIM THE GUN, AFTER ALL...

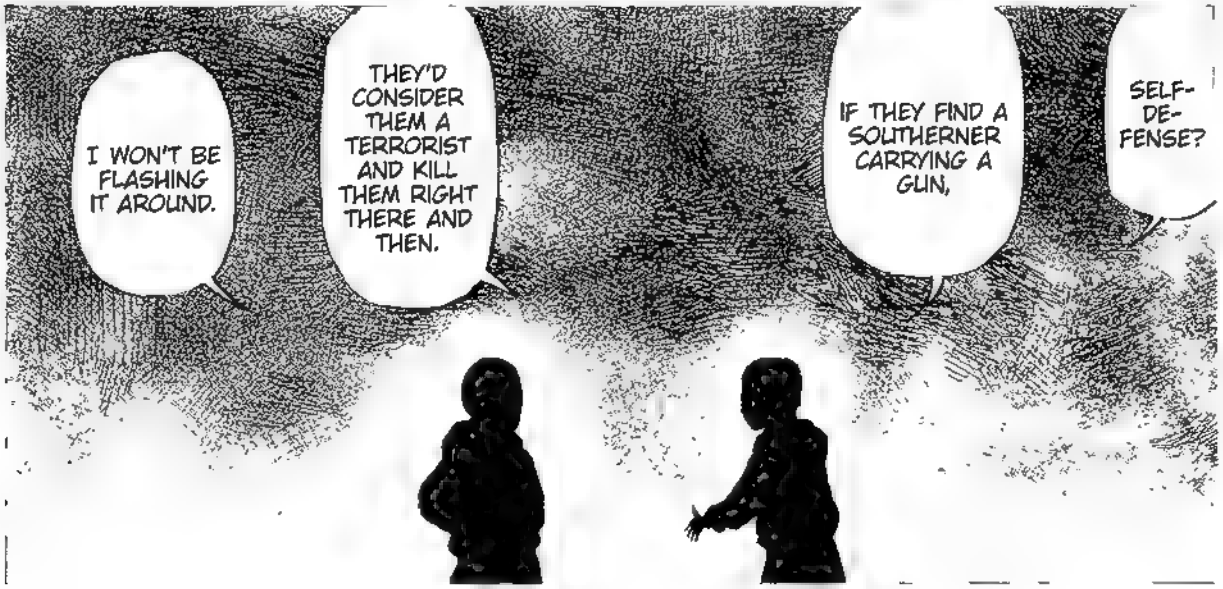
I, I WAS THE ONE...

THAT'S NOT...

N-NO WAY...

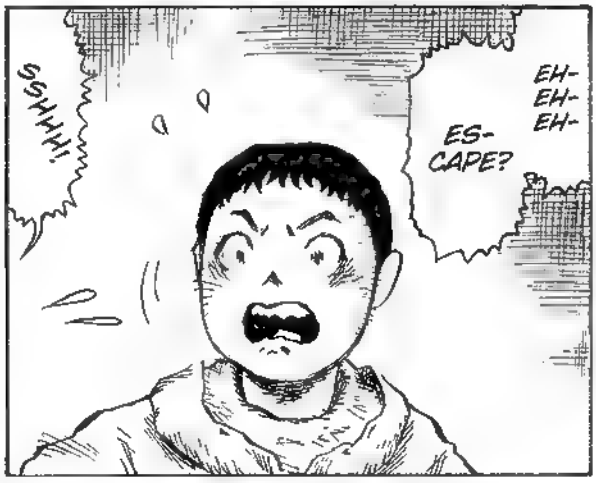
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO WITH A GUN?

GIMME ALL THE BULLETS IN THE WORLD AND I STILL WOULDN'T HAVE ENOUGH!
NO WAY!
COULD YOU BE THINKING OF TAKING REVENGE OR SOMETHING?
Ba-dum Ba-dum


I WON'T BE FLASHING IT AROUND.
THEY'D CONSIDER THEM A TERRORIST AND KILL THEM RIGHT THERE AND THEN.
IF THEY FIND A SOUTHERNER CARRYING A GUN,
SELF-DE-FENSE?

?
I'M MAKING MY ESCAPE!

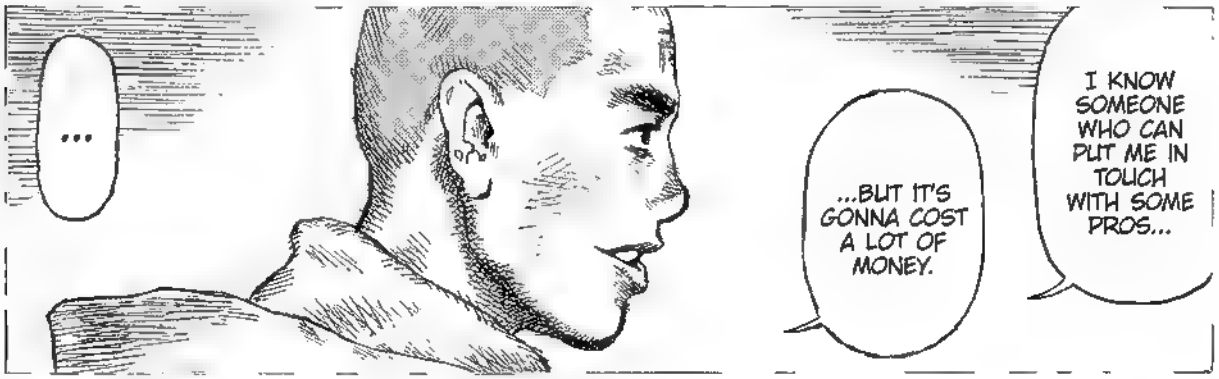
...TO BECOME A SOLDIER...
I'M GOING BACK SOUTH...

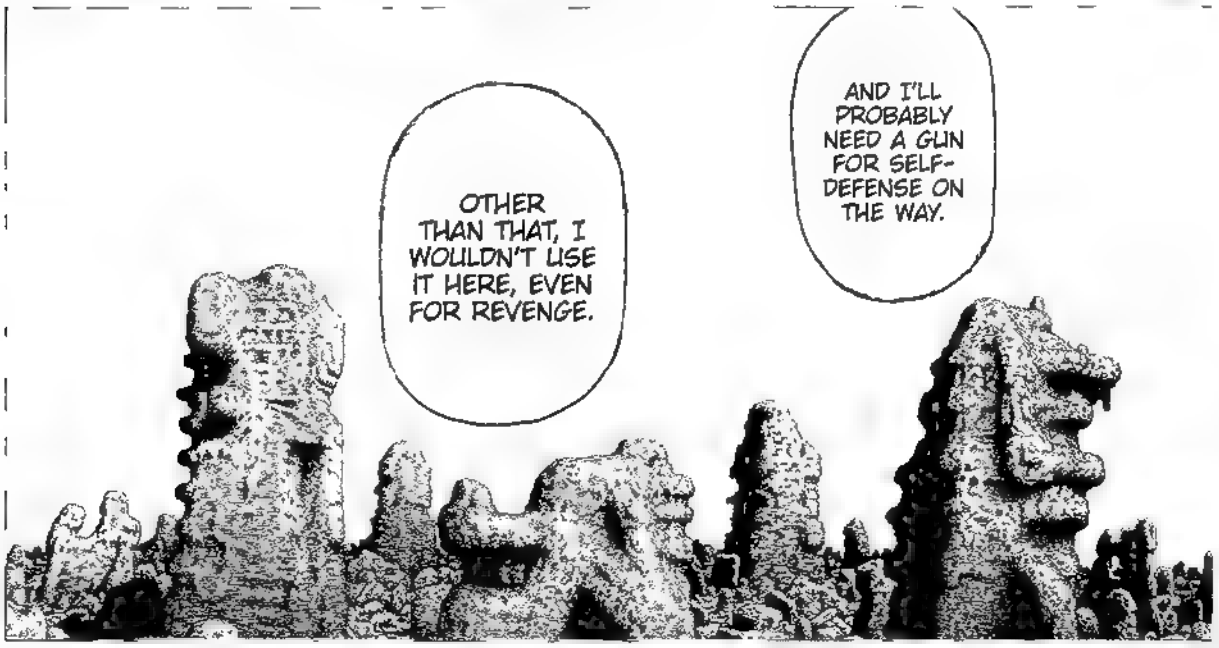

SSHHH!
ES-CAPE?
EH-EH-EH-

...
...AND MASSACRE THOSE WESTIES!

TH-THE BLACK MARKET...

YOU SAY ESCAPE,
BUT HOW...
Whoo
Ooosh


I KNOW SOMEONE WHO CAN PUT ME IN TOUCH WITH SOME PROS...
...BUT IT'S GONNA COST A LOT OF MONEY.
...

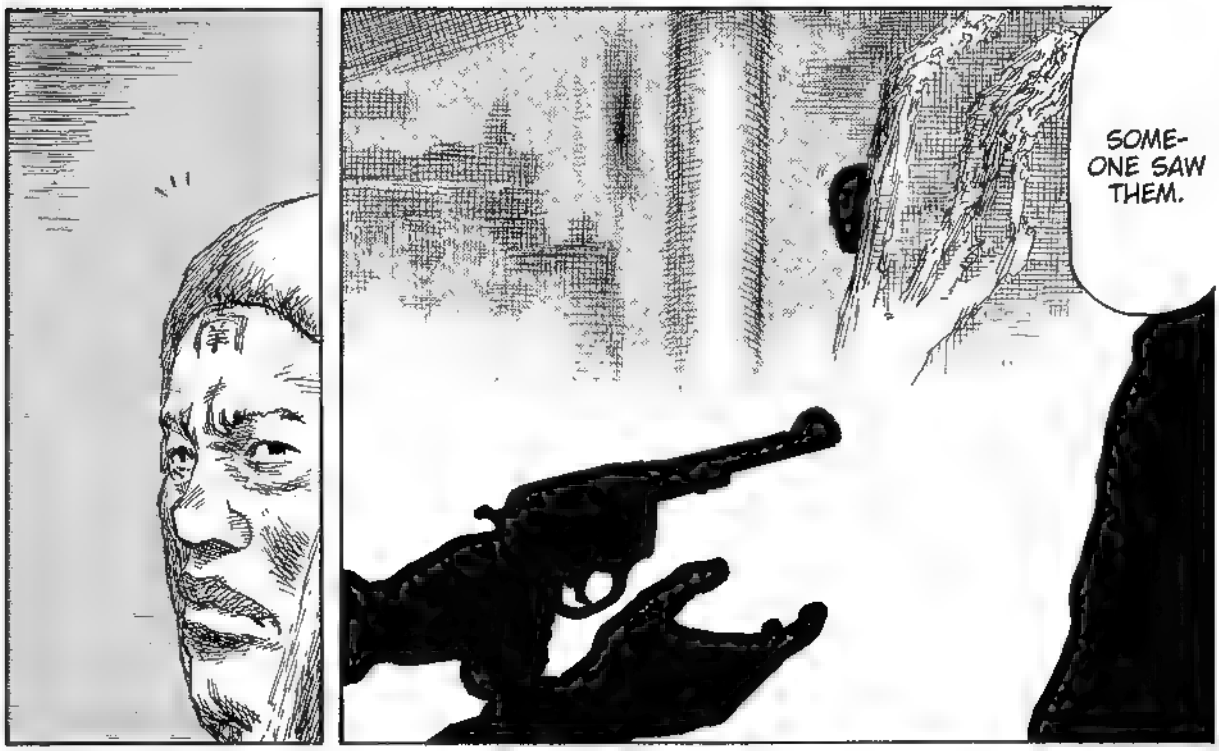

AND I'LL PROBABLY NEED A GUN FOR SELF-DEFENSE ON THE WAY.
OTHER THAN THAT, I WOULDN'T USE IT HERE, EVEN FOR REVENGE.

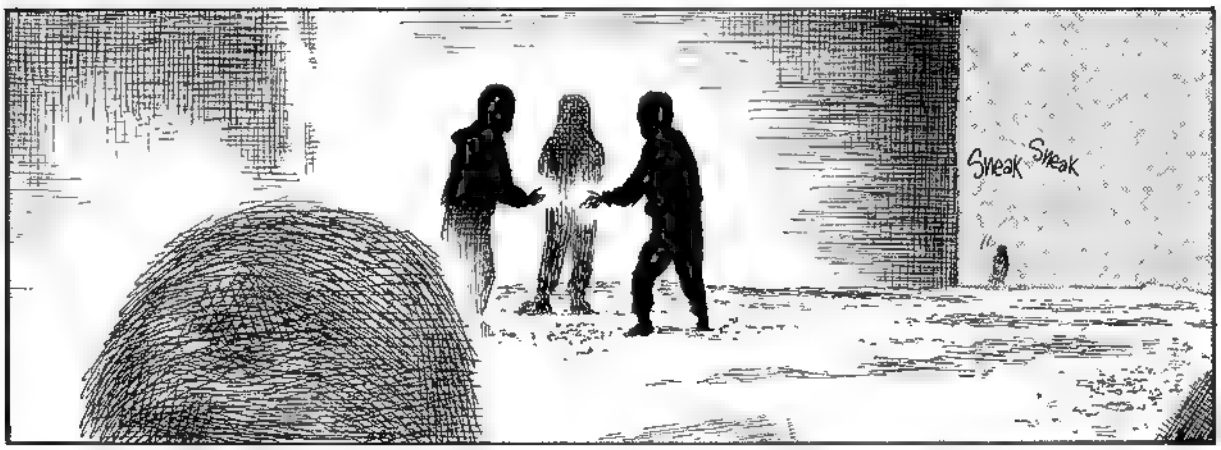
AND HE SAID HE WOULD KEEP IT HIDDEN...

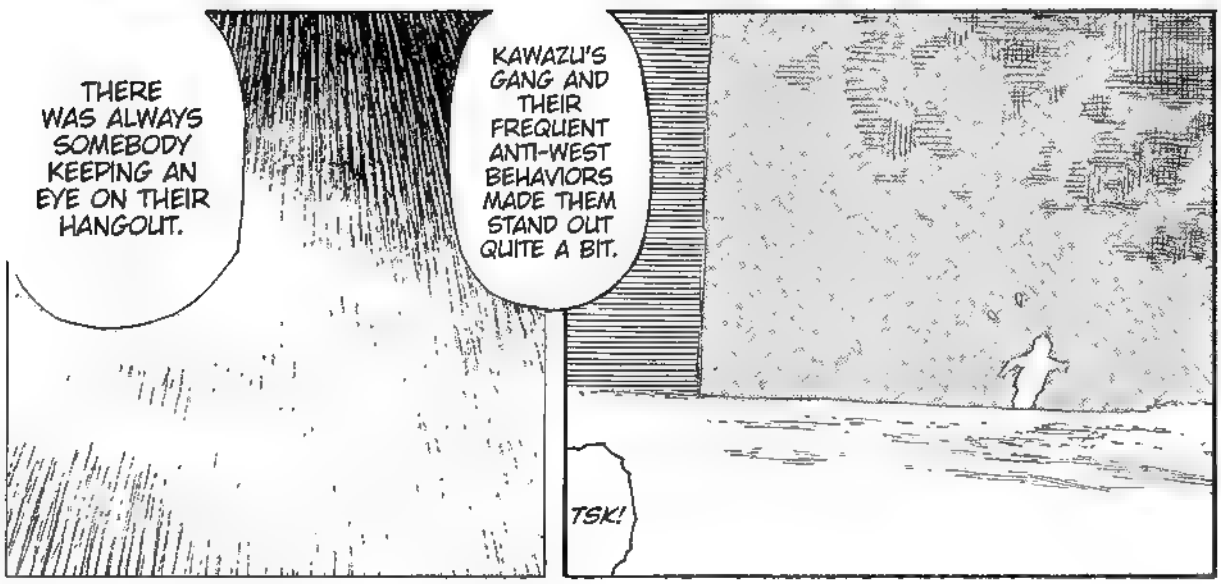
...I'LL KEEP IT SOMEPLACE HIDDEN FOR SURE.
UNTIL I MAKE MY ESCAPE...
I won't cause you any trouble, I swear!

IT'S NOT LIKE HE GOT AHEAD OF HIMSELF AND WENT ABOUT FLASHING IT AROUND.

HE GAVE THEM A SNEAK PEEK OF THE GUN HE'D AT LONG LAST GOT HIS HANDS ON.
HE HAD COM-RADES...
...COMRADES WITH WHOM HE HAD SWORN THEIR ESCAPE TOGETHER.

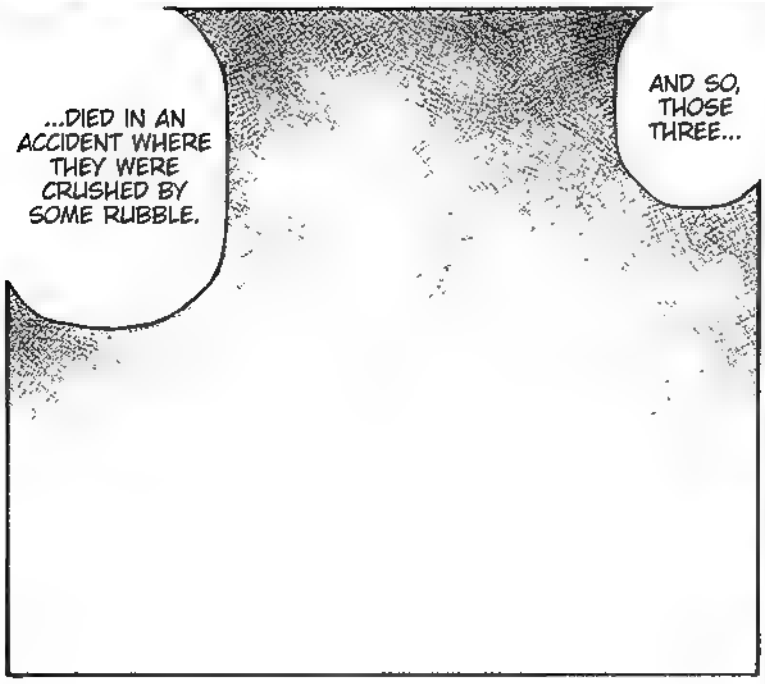

SOME-ONE SAW THEM.


Sneak Sneak


THERE WAS ALWAYS SOMEBODY KEEPING AN EYE ON THEIR HANGOUT.
KAWAZU'S GANG AND THEIR FREQUENT ANTI-WEST BEHAVIORS MADE THEM STAND OUT QUITE A BIT.
TSK!

HEY.
IF THEY HADN'T BEEN SEEN, HE'D HAVE RETRIEVED HIS GUN IN SECRET AND THAT WOULD'VE BEEN THE END OF THAT.

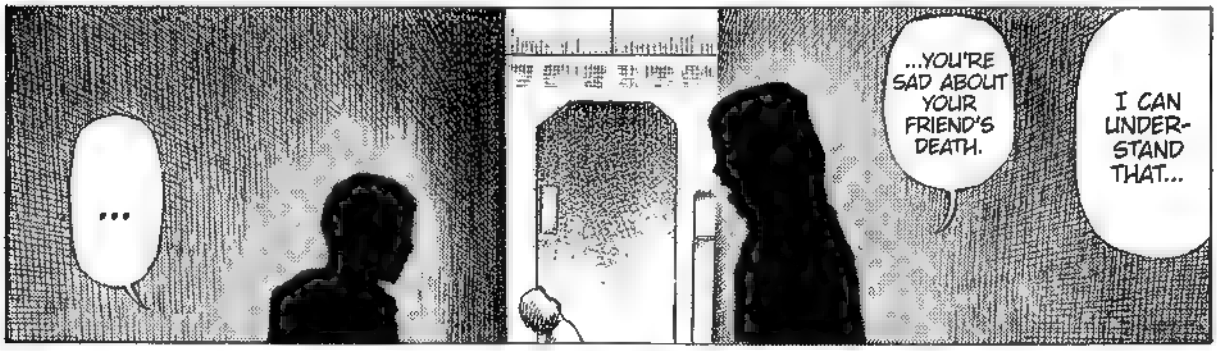
THEY FINALLY WENT AHEAD AND...
YE-YEAH.
DI-DID YOU SEE THAT JUST NOW?


...DIED IN AN ACCIDENT WHERE THEY WERE CRUSHED BY SOME RUBBLE.
AND SO, THOSE THREE...

YOU IDIOT, WE GO TO THE NEIGH-BORHOOD ASSOCIATION FIRST!
WHAT DO WE DO? SHOULD WE LET THE SECURITY POLICE KNOW?

...

YOU SAVED THE TEAM FROM IMMINENT DANGER.
MR. SETOGIWA, THERE WAS NOTHING WRONG WITH YOUR COURSE OF ACTION.


...
...YOU'RE SAD ABOUT YOUR FRIEND'S DEATH.
I CAN UNDER-STAND THAT...

BUT *HE WANTED* THE GUN, RIGHT?

TH-THAT'S BECAUSE... *I* WAS THE ONE WHO GAVE KOU THE GUN...
EH... HUH?
BUT WHY DO YOU FEEL SO *RESPONSIBLE* FOR HIS DEATH?
tremble
tremble
tremble
tremble

KAWAZU KOUJI *FOUGHT* HIS *BATTLE* AND *DIED.*
HE MADE A DESPERATE CHOICE WITH THE LITTLE HE HAD FOR BRAINS.

IT ONLY MAKES HIM SOUND LIKE SOME PITIFUL, MISERABLE *GOOF* AND *NOTHING* MORE.
IF YOU GO AROUND SAYING HIS DYING WAS ANYONE ELSE'S FAULT,

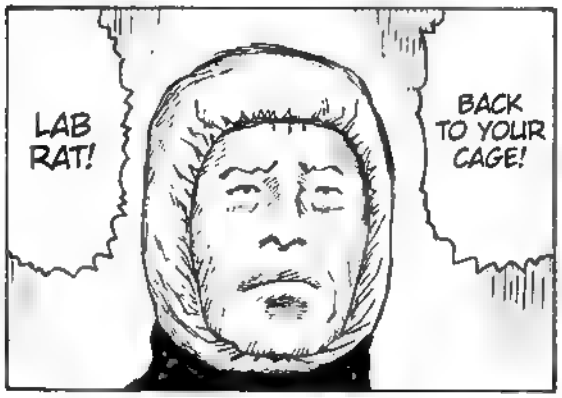
SHOCK
YO.

Step

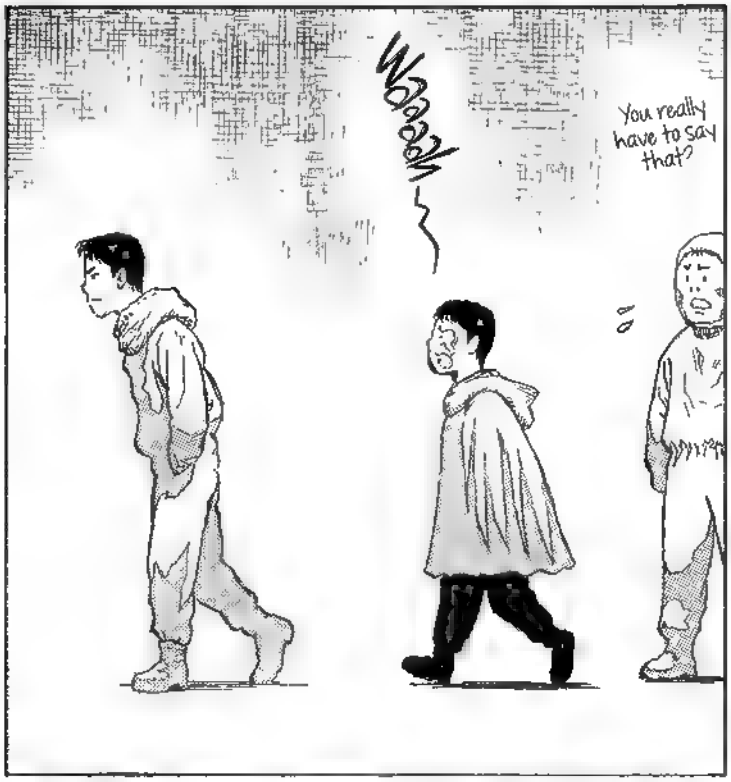
YOU REALLY DIDN'T LEARN YOUR LESSON, DID YOU? AFTER GETTING COMPLETELY CHEWED OUT, YOU STILL DON'T GET IT.
You've got quite the guts!
S-S-SORRY.
...

YOU FUCK-ING BRAT!
Glare
A-AKIO!
Oh! You're finally here.

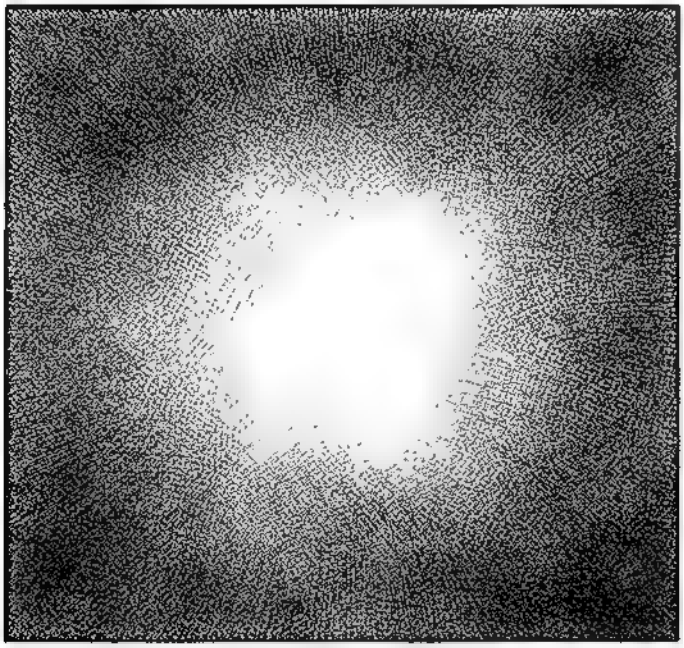
You're welcome.
Thanks for the call
Uugh...

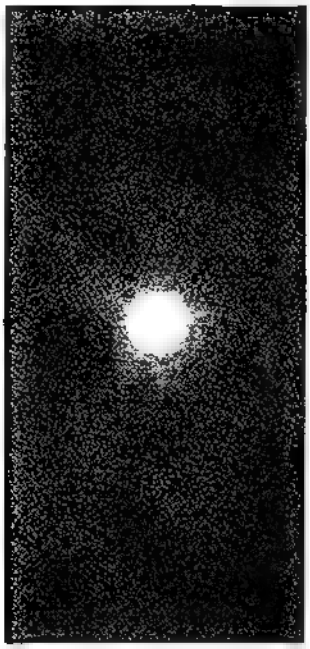

LAB RAT!
BACK TO YOUR CAGE!

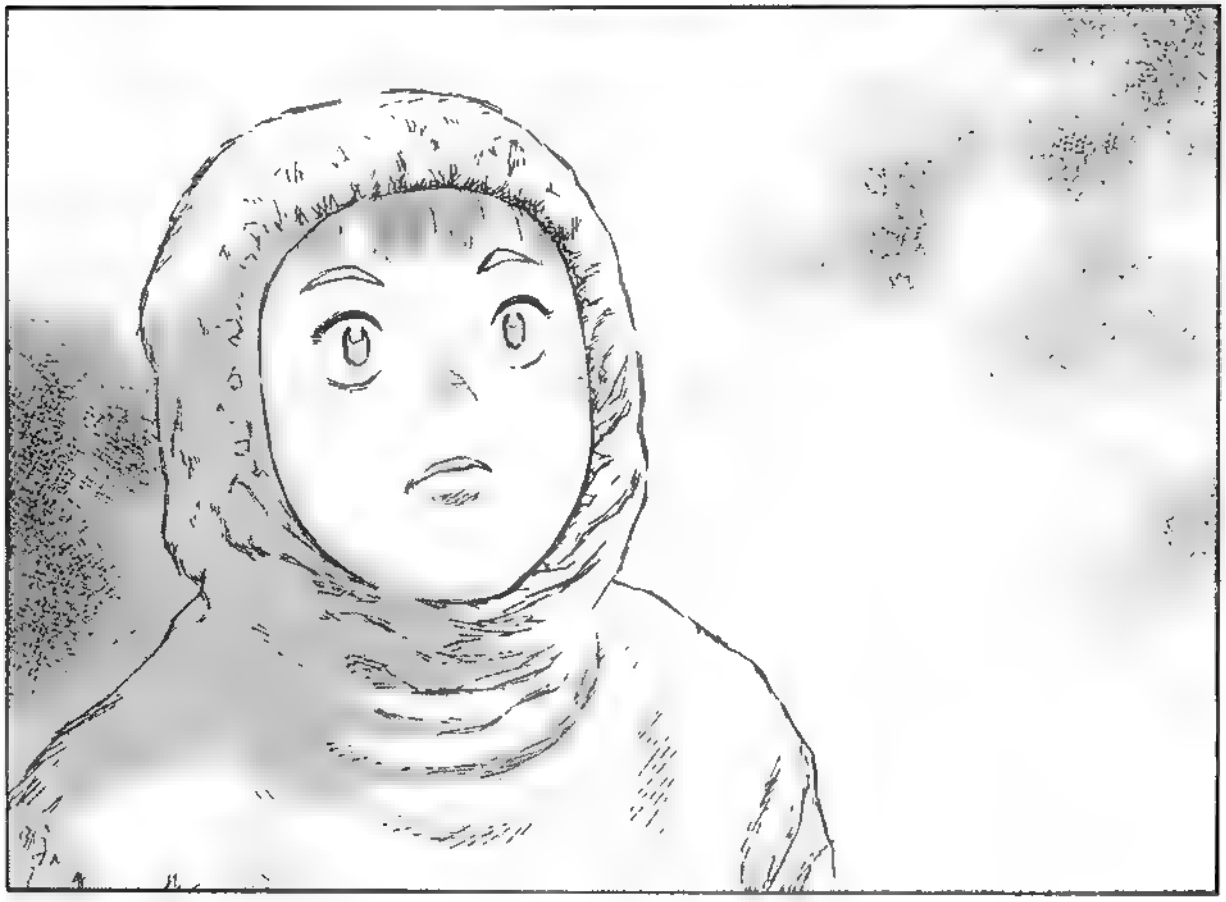
BEFORE I KNEW IT, MR. SETOGIWA WAS IN FRONT OF ME...
I... I DON'T GET IT MYSELF, EITHER...


You really have to say that?

PEOPLE DIE WHEN YOU LOITER AROUND.
SHOCK
...







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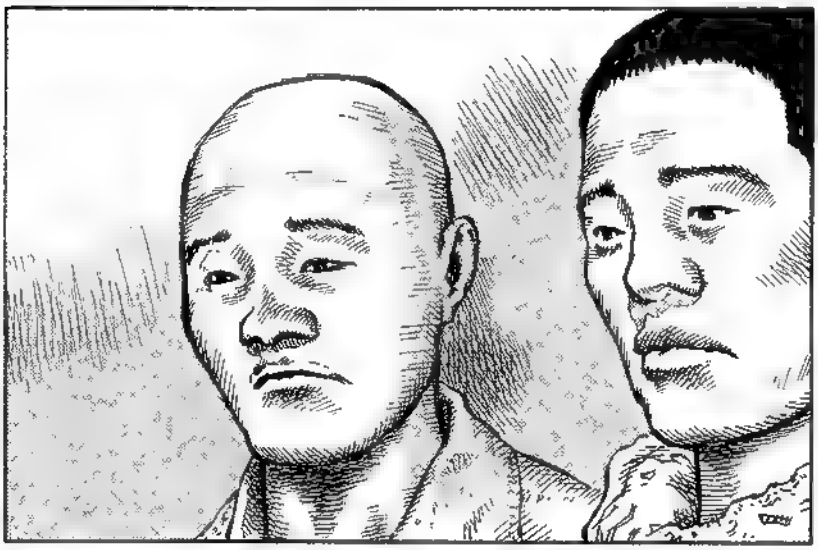
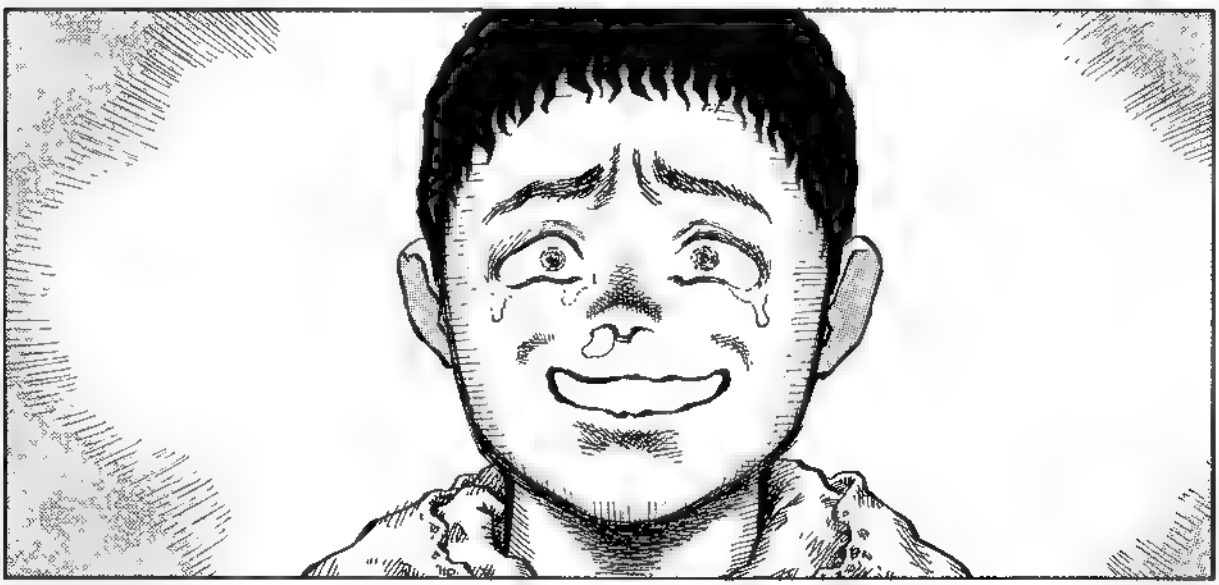
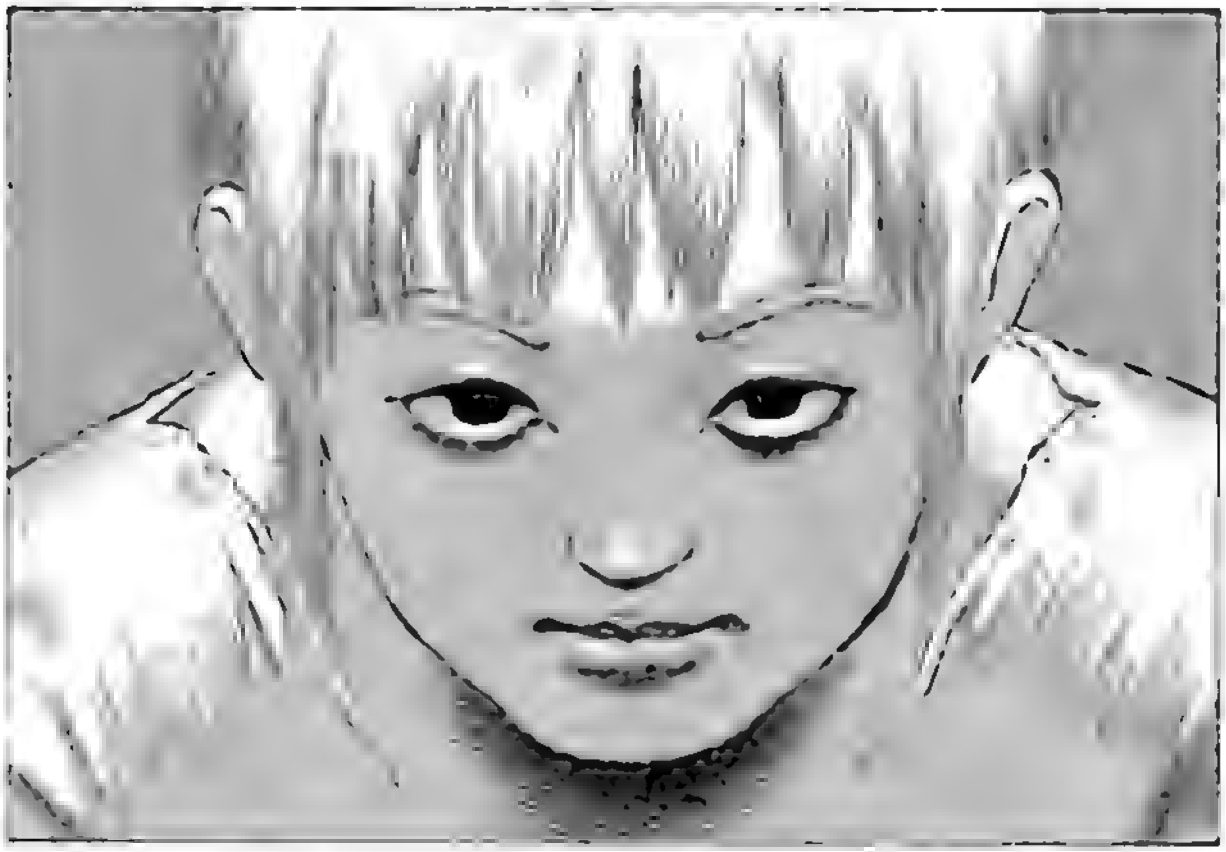
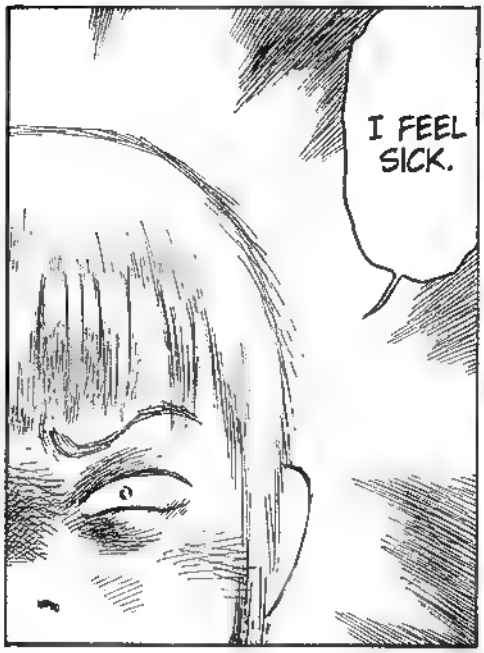
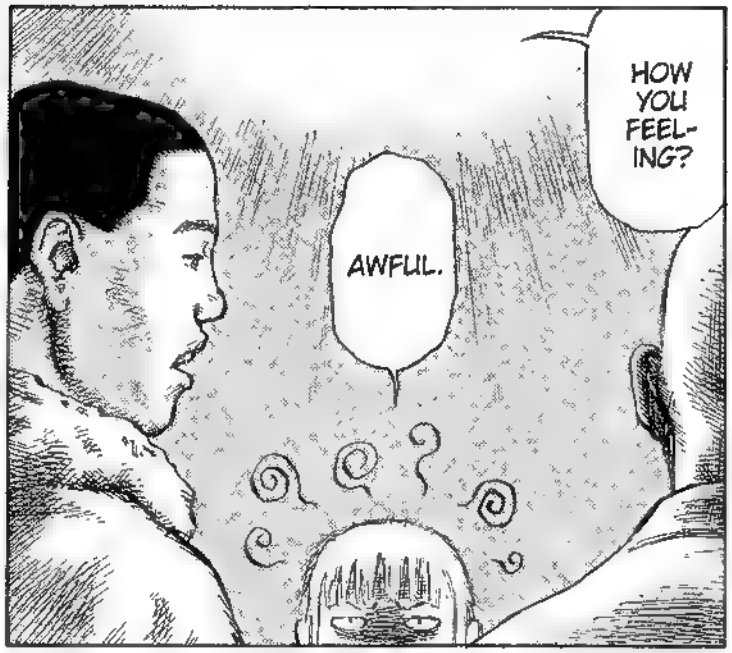


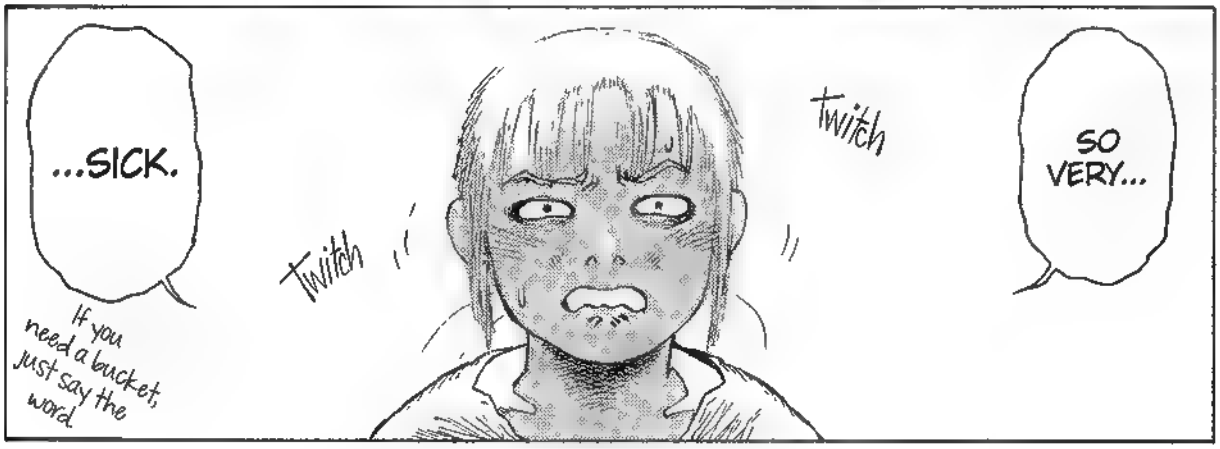


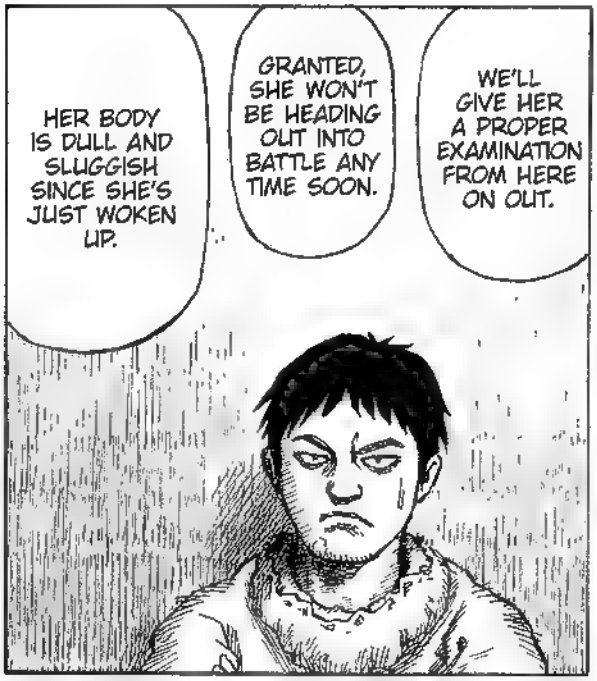


I HAD TO PREPARE IT IN A CERTAIN WAY SO HER BODY COULD HANDLE IT.
CAN'T BELIEVE THAT KINDA THING CAN WORK SO WELL...

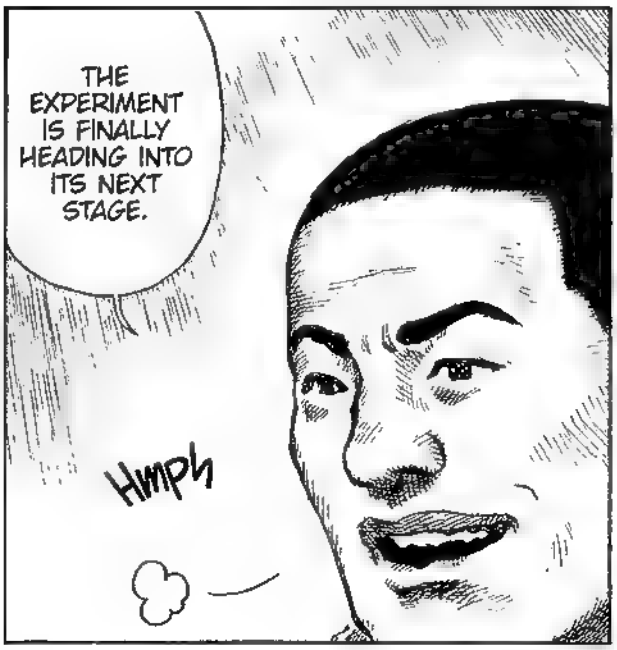

I FEEL SICK.

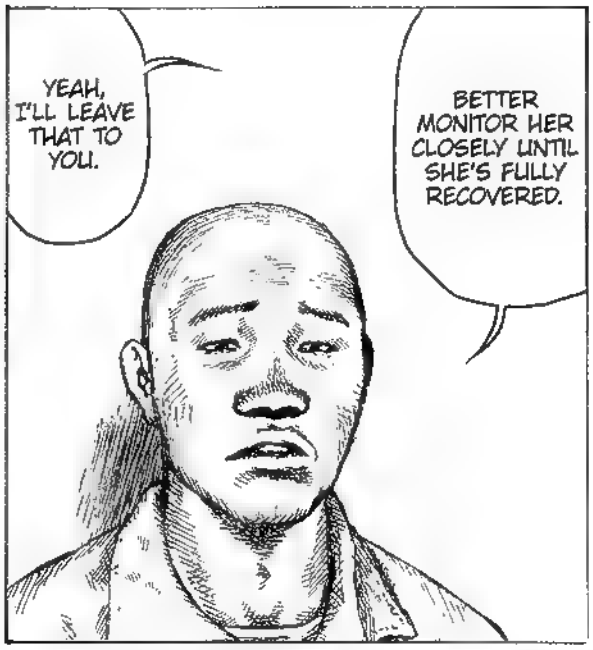

HOW YOU FEEL-ING?
AWFUL.


...SICK.
If you need a bucket, just say the word.
Twitch
Twitch
SO VERY...

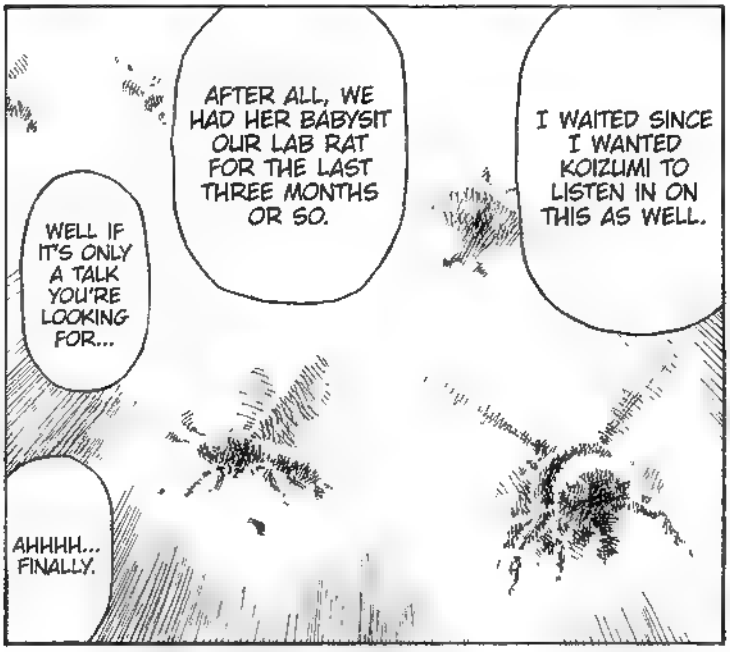

HER BODY IS DULL AND SLUGGISH SINCE SHE'S JUST WOKEN UP.
GRANTED, SHE WON'T BE HEADING OUT INTO BATTLE ANY TIME SOON.
WE'LL GIVE HER A PROPER EXAMINATION FROM HERE ON OUT.

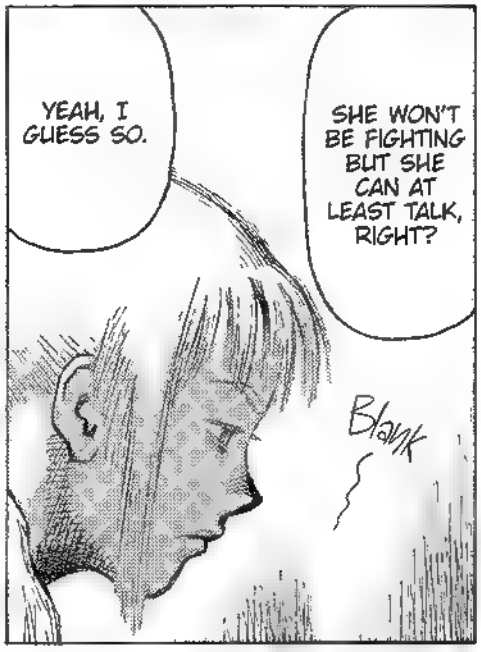
I GAVE HER A BRIEF CHECK-UP.
She's none the worse for wear.
HOW IS SHE?
You think she'll be all right?


THE EXPERIMENT IS FINALLY HEADING INTO ITS NEXT STAGE.
Hmph


YEAH, I'LL LEAVE THAT TO YOU.
BETTER MONITOR HER CLOSELY UNTIL SHE'S FULLY RECOVERED.

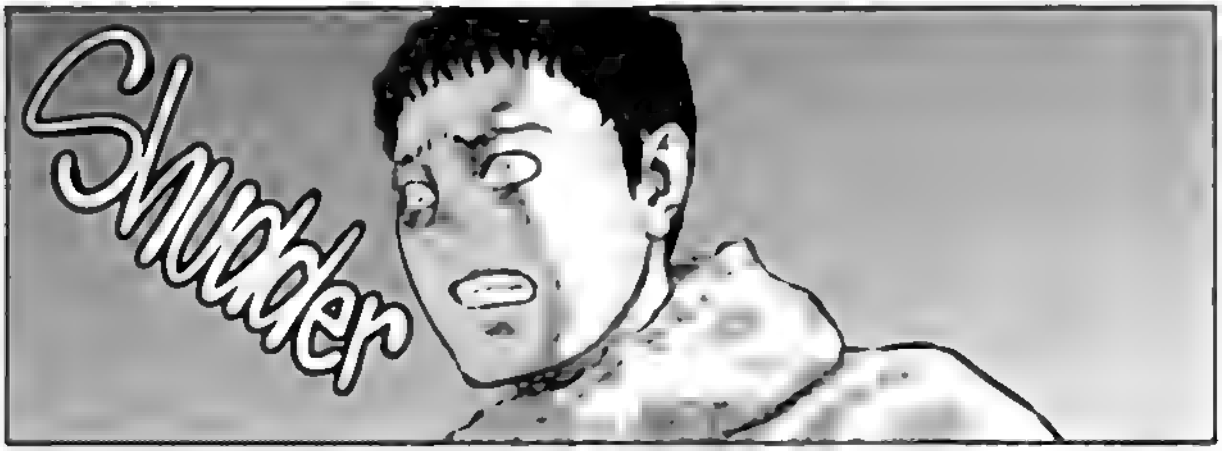
HM?
YO.


WELL IF IT'S ONLY A TALK YOU'RE LOOKING FOR...
AFTER ALL, WE HAD HER BABYSIT OUR LAB RAT FOR THE LAST THREE MONTHS OR SO.
I WAITED SINCE I WANTED KOIZUMI TO LISTEN IN ON THIS AS WELL.
AHHHH... FINALLY.

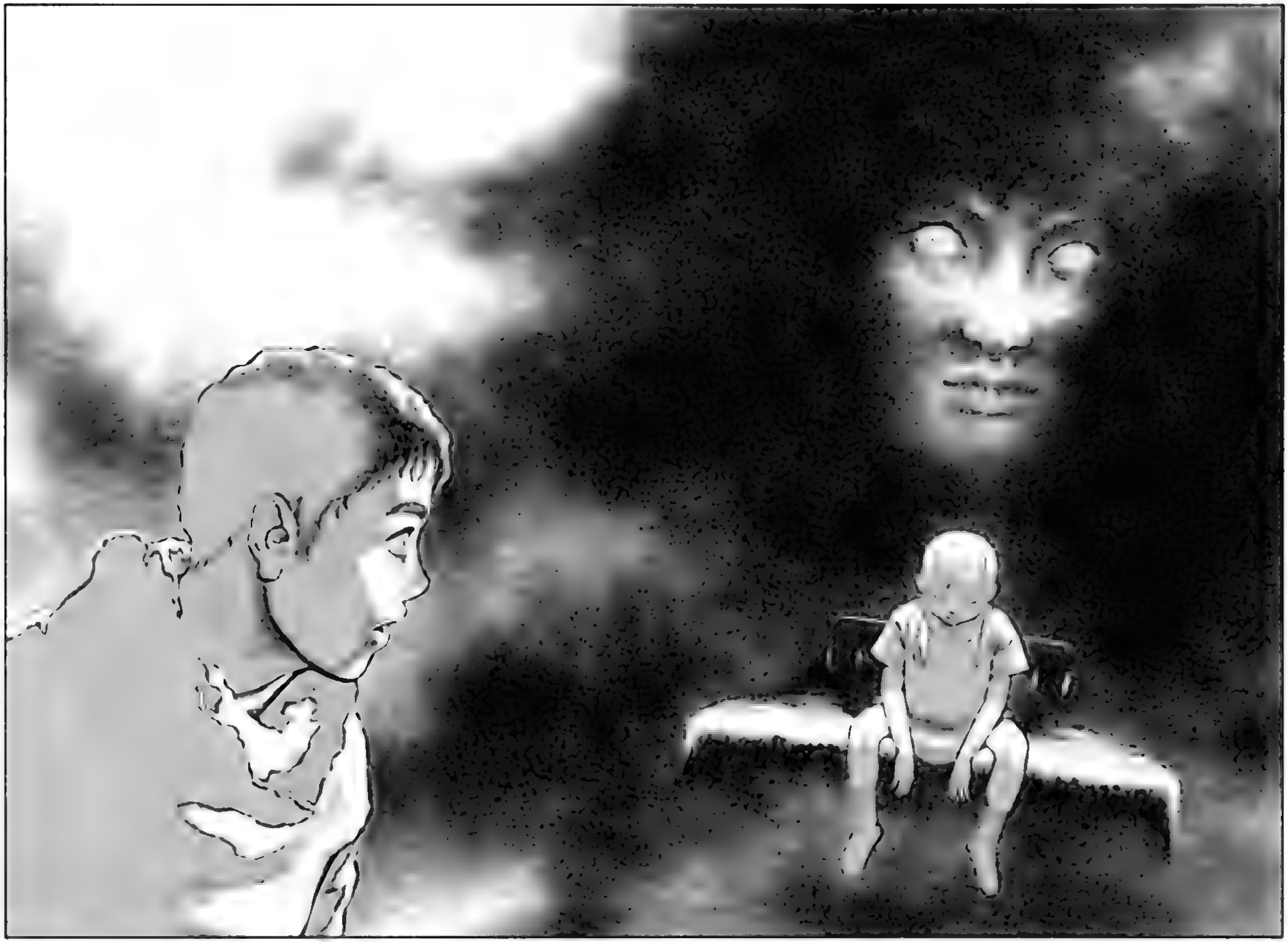

YEAH, I GUESS SO.
SHE WON'T BE FIGHTING BUT SHE CAN AT LEAST TALK, RIGHT?
Blank

RUMBLE
GROOWL
WHA-WHAT THE?

I'LL-- I'LL PREPARE SOMETHING QUICKLY!
I THOUGHT THAT WAS THE WATER PIPE CLOGGING UP.
THAT WAS QUITE A SOUND.
THAT'S YOUR STOMACH RUMBLING?
I'M HUNGRY.
GROOOWL
GRR
GRR
GRR


Shudder

Ba-dum
Ba-dum
Ba-dum
Ba-dum

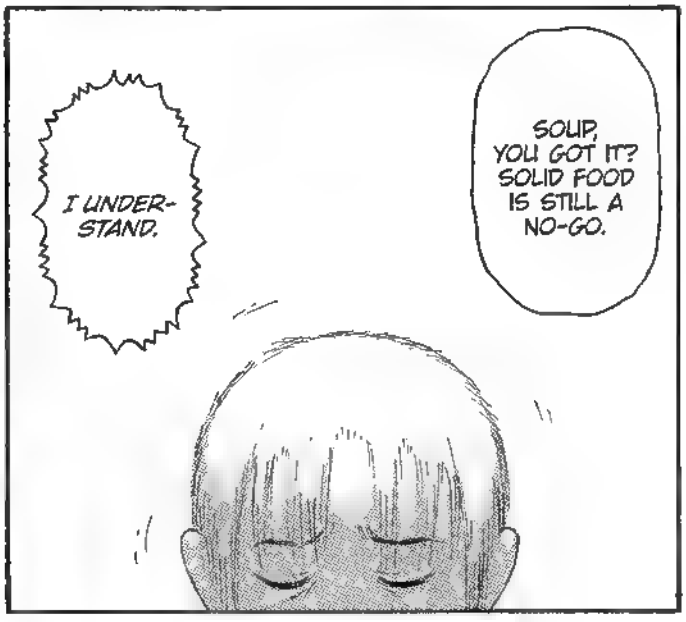


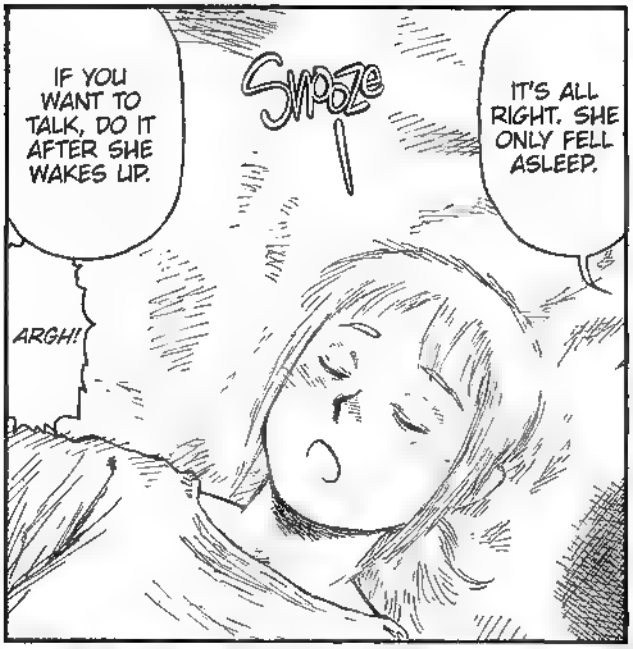
WHAT'S WRONG?
That freaked me out!

?
WAH!

AH... ...NOTHING.
Ba-dum
Ba-dum
Huh?
Ba-dum
Groww!
Ba-dum
Growl
Food
Gruu

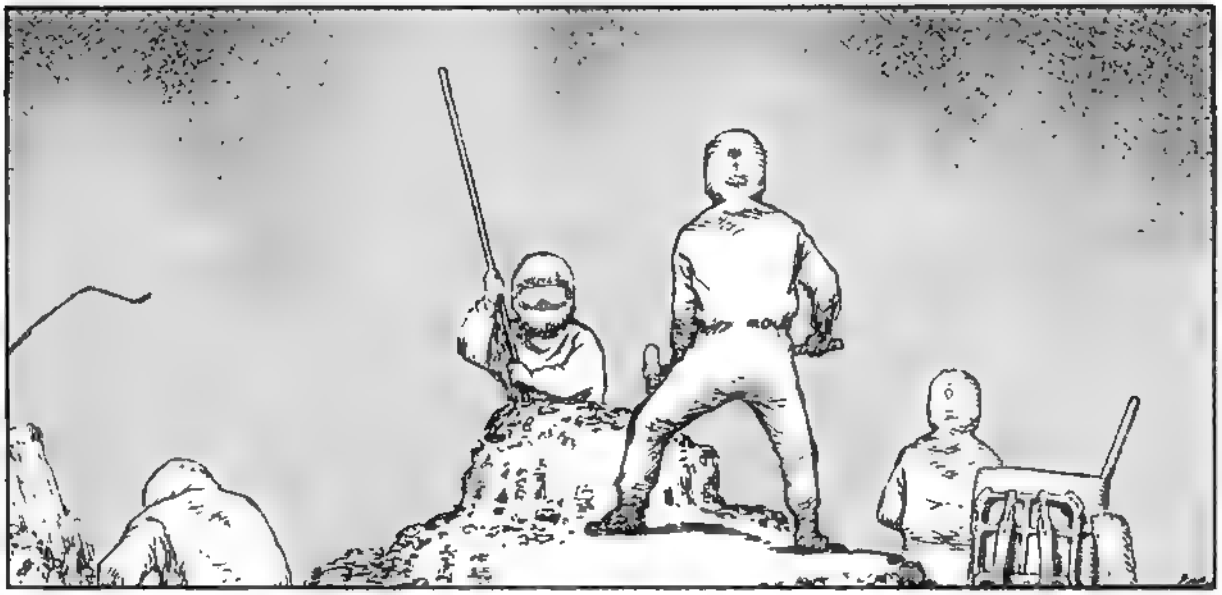
I SWEAR I SAW SOMETHING REALLY SCARY JUST NOW...
Ba-dum
Ba-Ba-dum dum

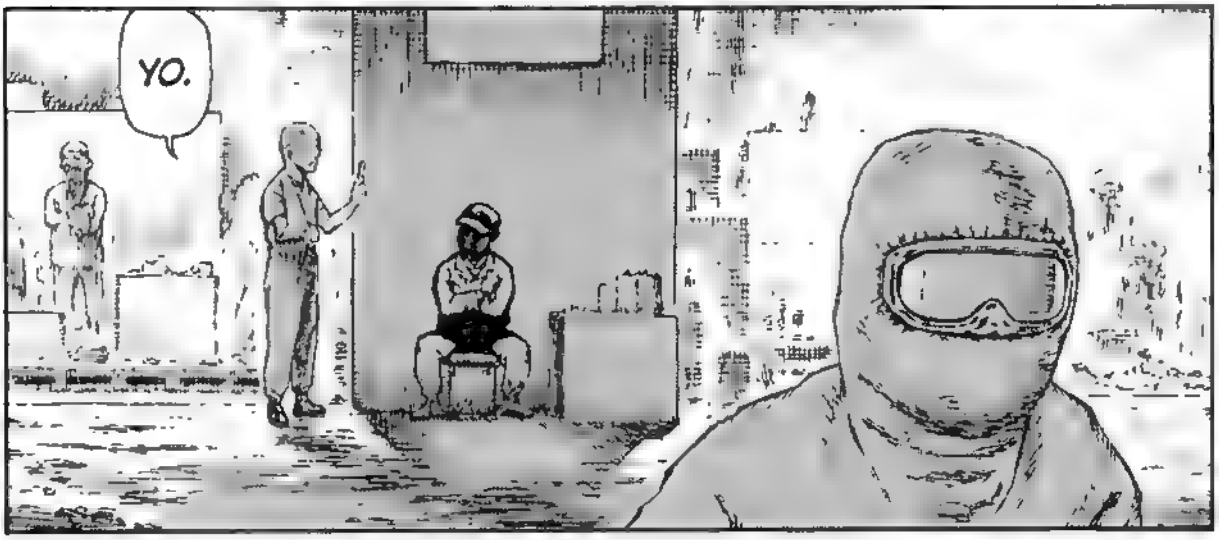

I UNDERSTAND.
SOUP, YOU GOT IT? SOLID FOOD IS STILL A NO-GO.

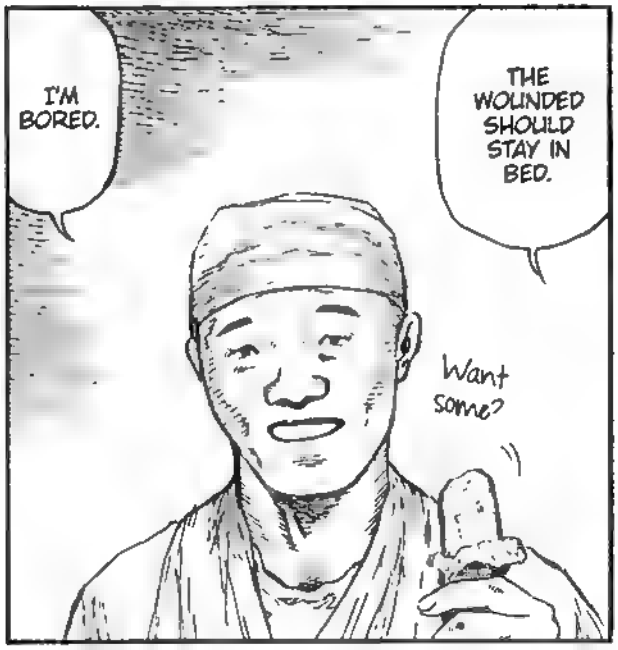

IF YOU WANT TO TALK, DO IT AFTER SHE WAKES UP.
Snooze
IT'S ALL RIGHT. SHE ONLY FELL ASLEEP.
ARGH!

AH.
THUD

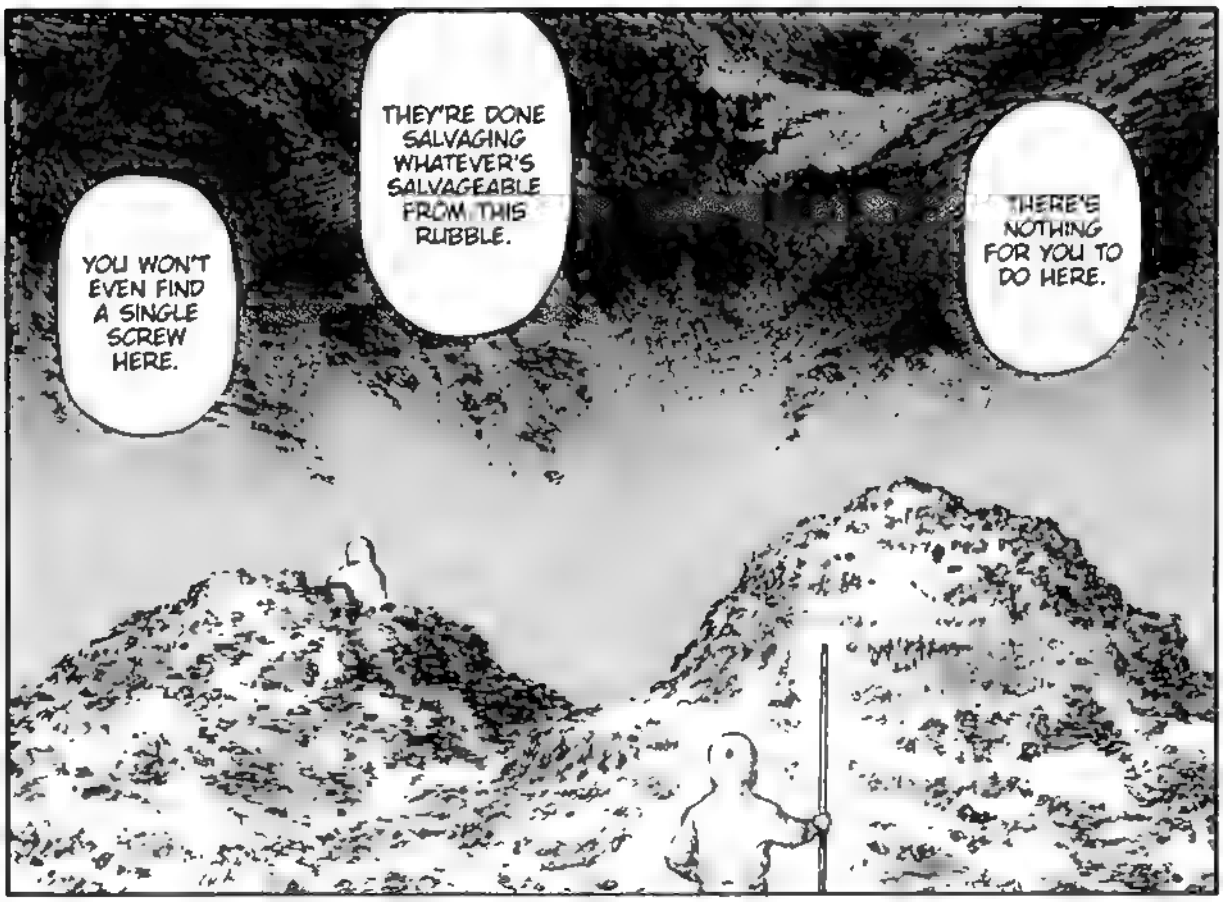
twitch twitch




YO.


I'M BORED.
THE WOUNDED SHOULD STAY IN BED.
Want some?

I WAS THINKING I COULD MAYBE HELP OUT HERE.
Staring at dirt
HEY, WHAT'S UP?


YOU WON'T EVEN FIND A SINGLE SCREW HERE.
THEY'RE DONE SALVAGING WHATEVER'S SALVAGEABLE FROM THIS RUBBLE.
THERE'S NOTHING FOR YOU TO DO HERE.

Twitch
HEY. PIECE OF TRASH OVER THERE.

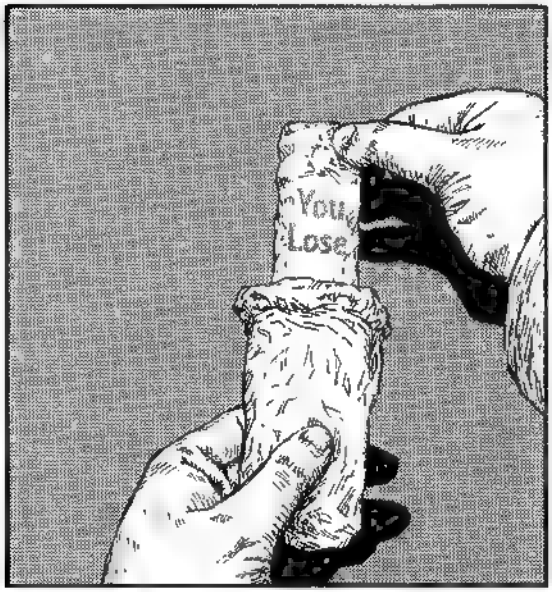
YE-YES.
Flinch
THIS IS A VALUABLE RESOURCE. PICK IT UP.

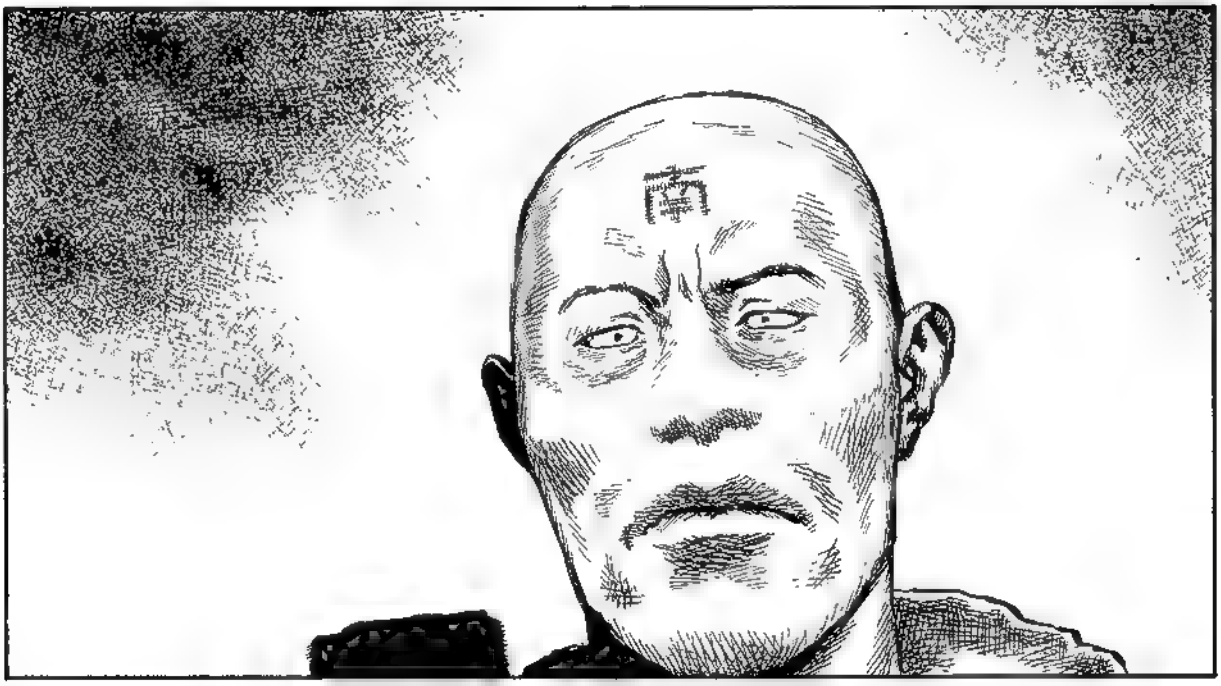
THE SOUTHERNERS HERE ARE OFF INTO THE TUNNELS TOMORROW.
IS THAT SO?
Chew Chew
GRIP

MYSELF OFF
TO SLEEP.

Rustle
Bump

You
Lose


You
Lose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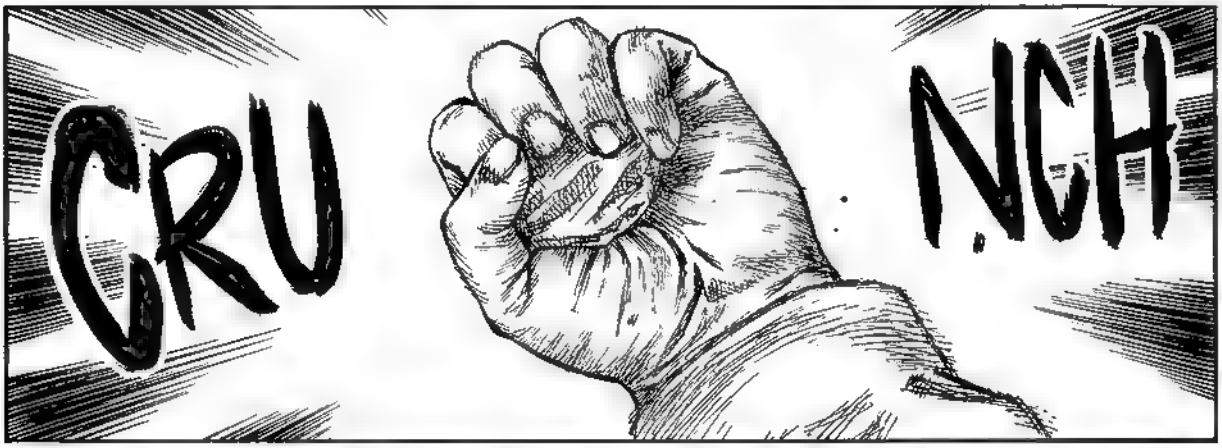
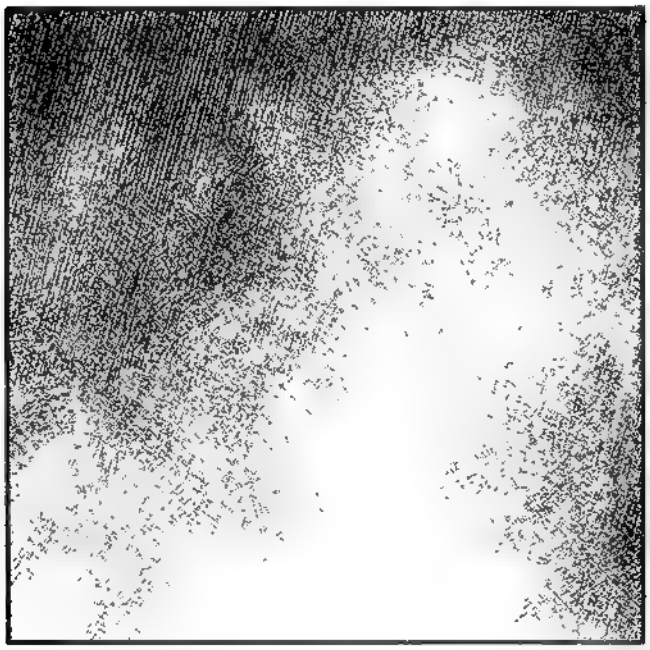
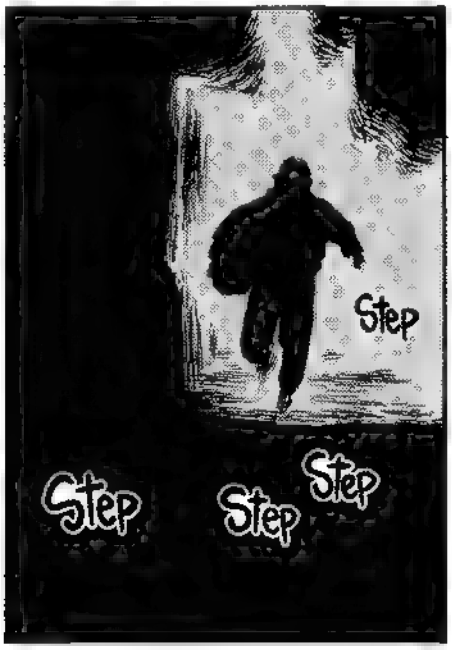
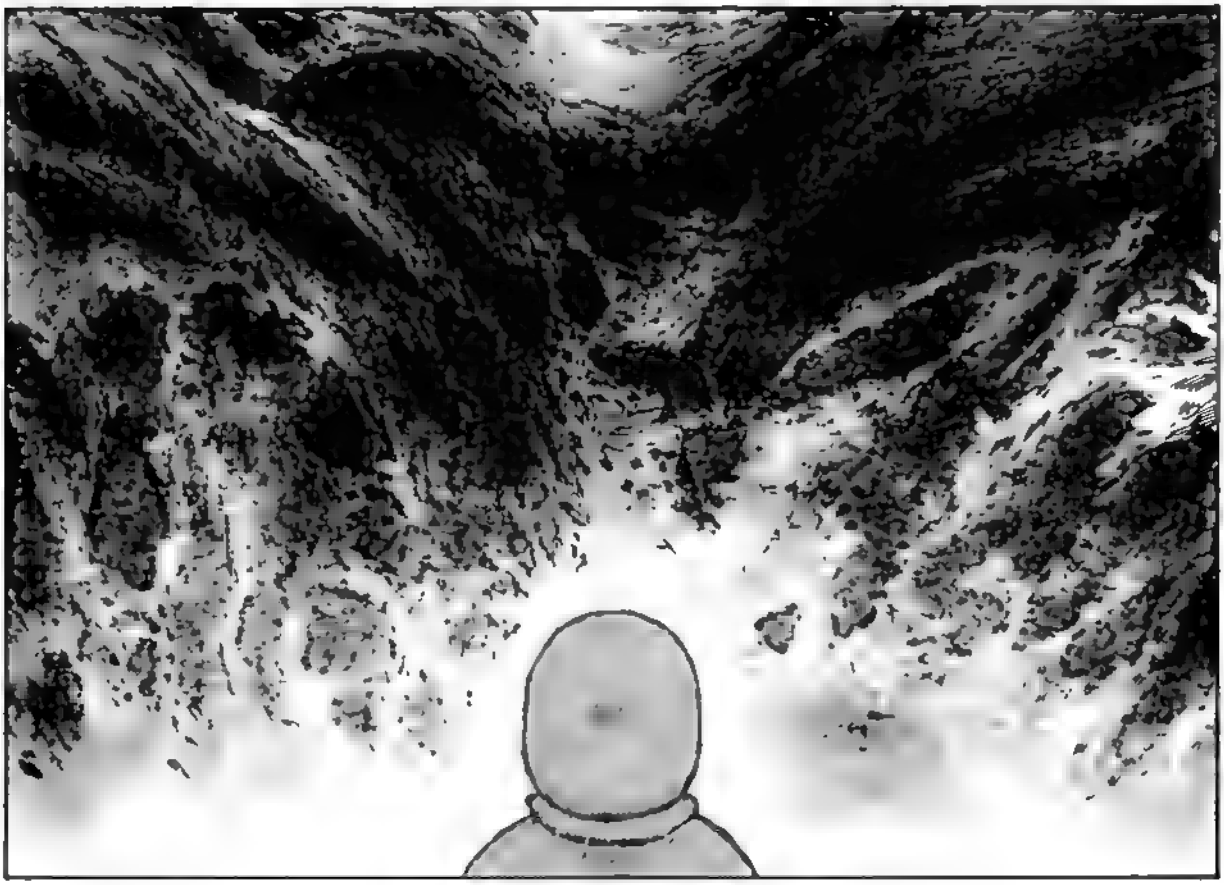
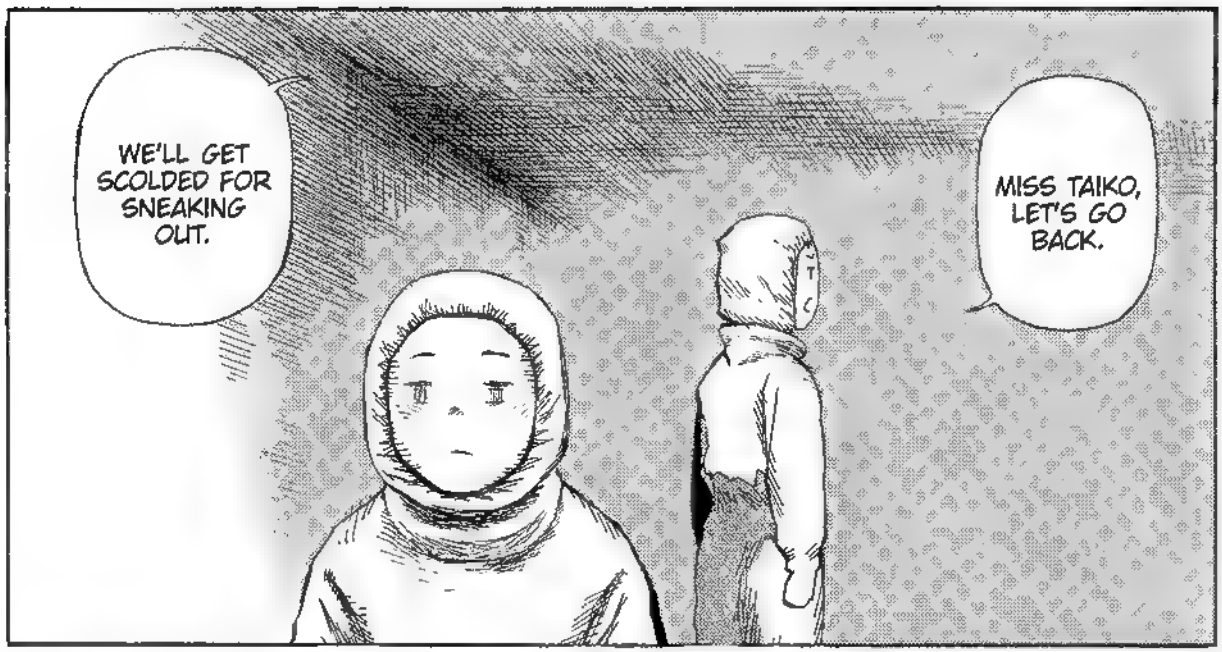

CRU
NCH



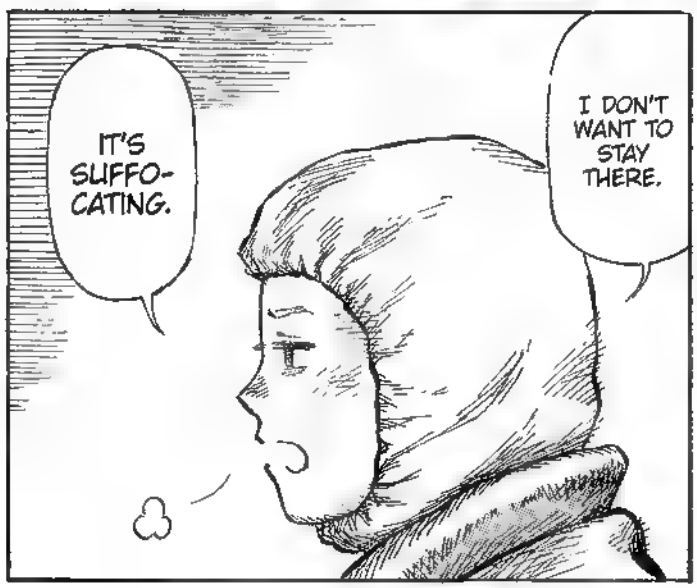

Step
Step
Step
Step

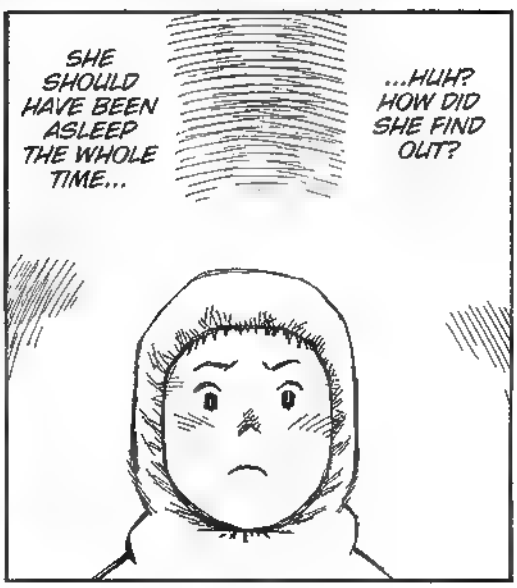
WHOOOOOSH

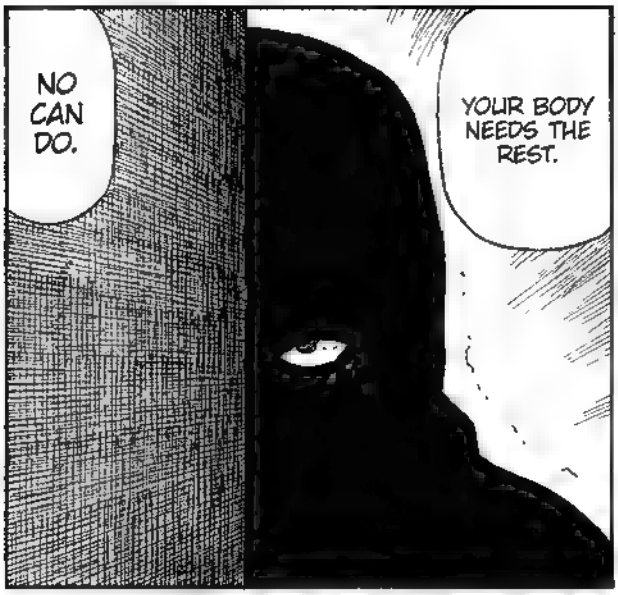


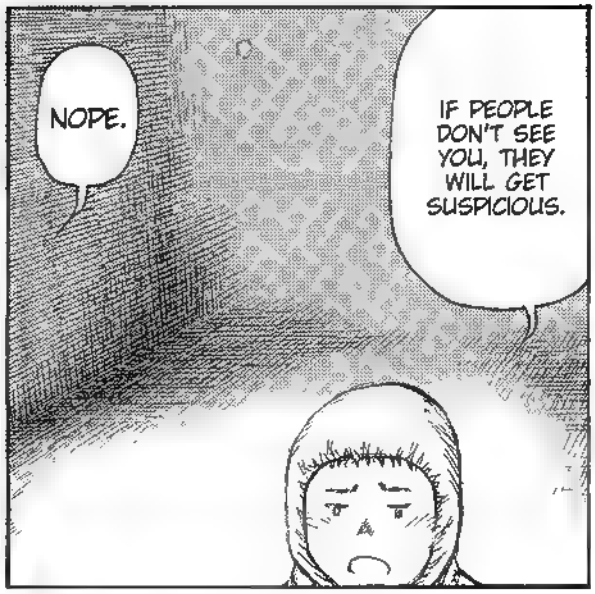

WE'LL GET SCOLDED FOR SNEAKING OUT.
MISS TAIKO, LET'S GO BACK.

You killed your friend!
It's your fault he died!
Stop causing us trouble!
I'm very sorry!!!
Scowl
Scowl
YEAH... WELL...
SPEAKING OF WHICH, AKIO RIPPED YOU A NEW ONE, DIDN'T HE?
EH-HEH.


IT'S SUFFO-CATING.
I DON'T WANT TO STAY THERE.


SHE SHOULD HAVE BEEN ASLEEP THE WHOLE TIME...
...HUH? HOW DID SHE FIND OUT?


NO CAN DO.
YOUR BODY NEEDS THE REST.


NOPE.
IF PEOPLE DON'T SEE YOU, THEY WILL GET SUSPICIOUS.

I FOUND IT HARD TO BREATHE ALL OF A SUDDEN.
YOU HAD BEEN FINE JUST A MOMENT AGO.
HOW COME, THEN?
Wobble

YEAH, YEAH.
WATER!

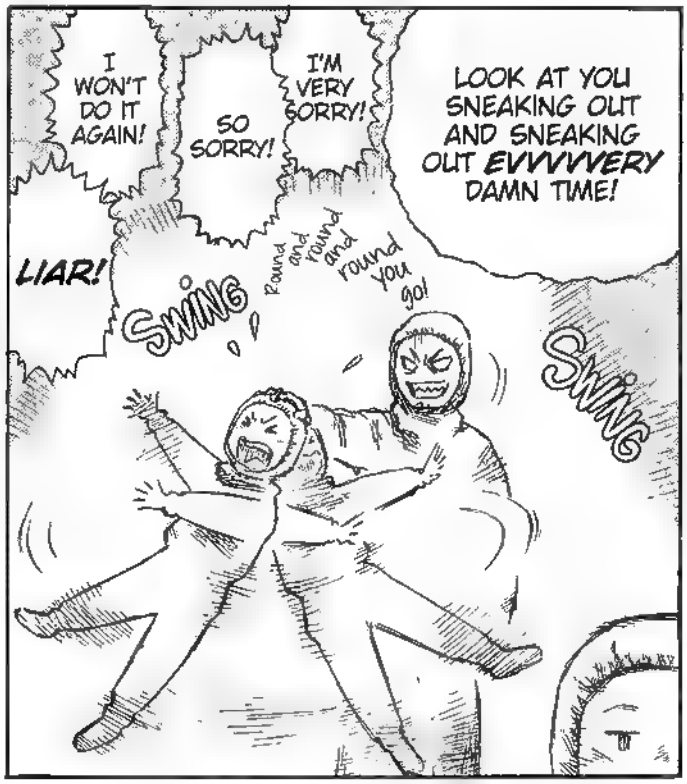
SO SICK TO THE STOMACH.
AAAH, I FEEL REALLY BAD.

ARH-AKIO!

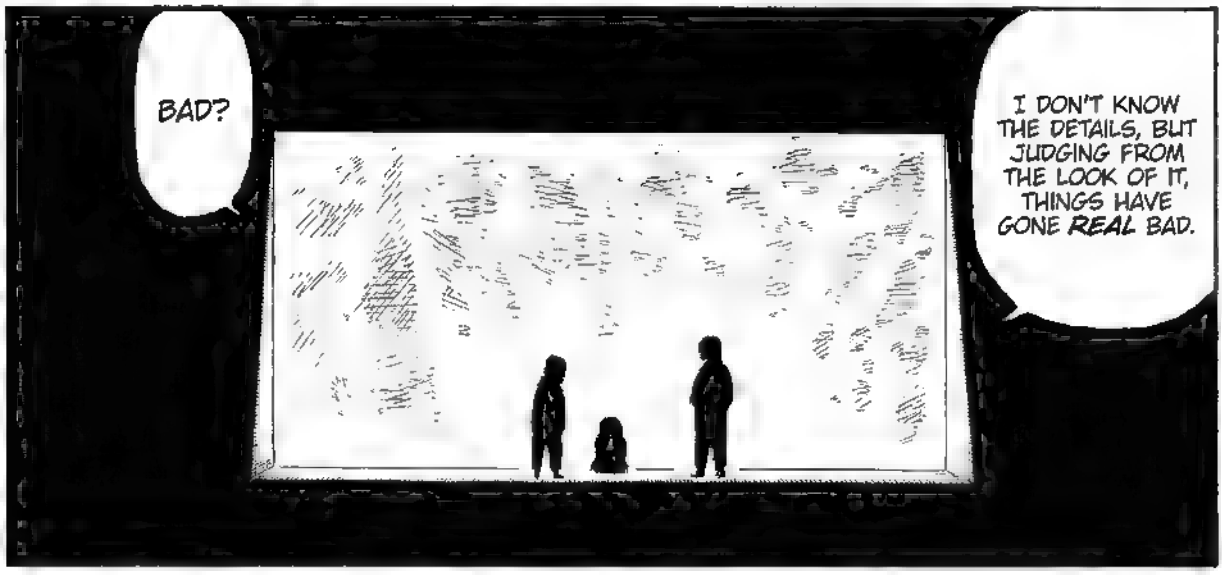
NCH

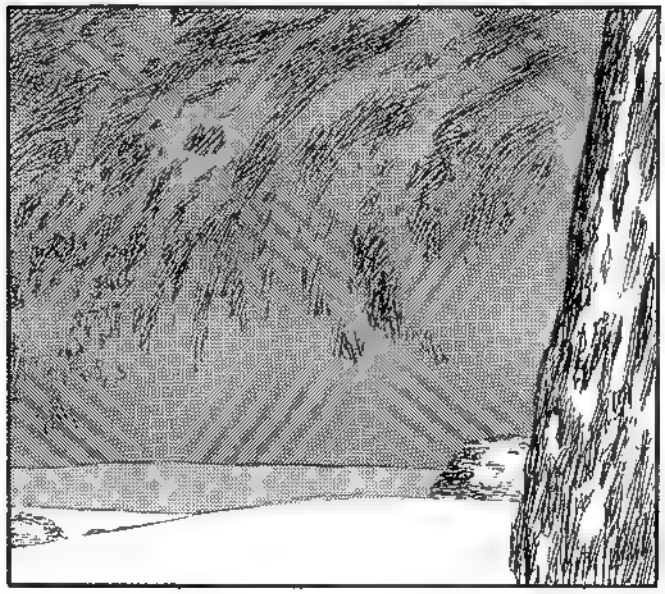
YOU! GUYS!

CLE

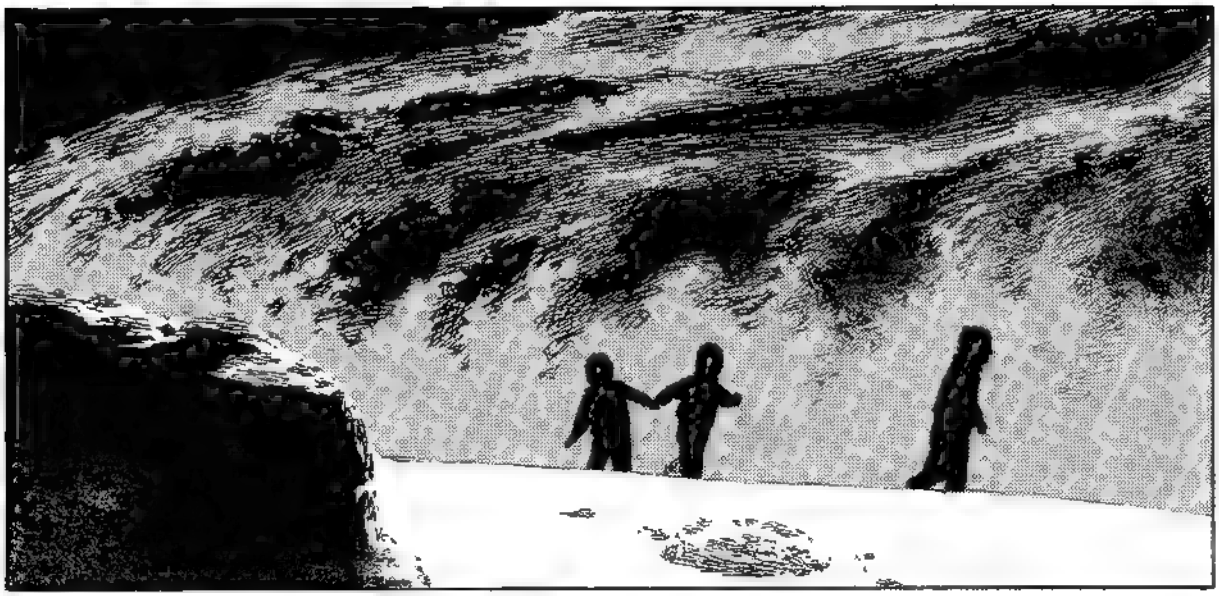


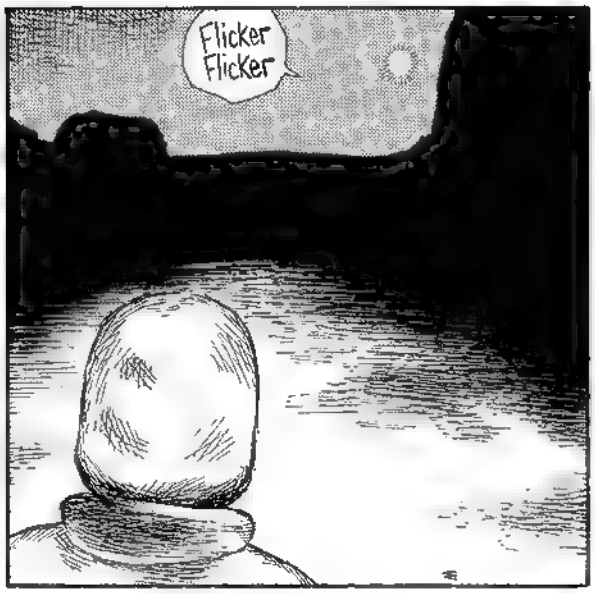
MISS TAIKO IS STILL...
BU-BUT...
...WE'RE HEADING OUT?
APPARENTLY, WE'RE VACATING OUR CURRENT HIDEOUT.


BAD?
I DON'T KNOW THE DETAILS, BUT JUDGING FROM THE LOOK OF IT, THINGS HAVE GONE *REAL* BAD.



DON'T GIVE ME THAT!
I don't want to go!
WHA-AA...
COME, LET'S GO.

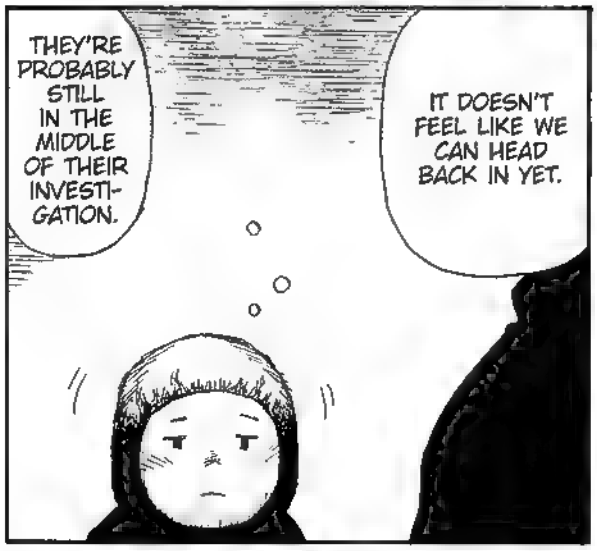


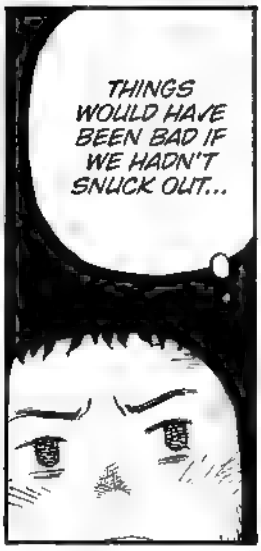

Flicker
Flicker

Freeze
Stop!

YO, WHAT'S GOING ON?

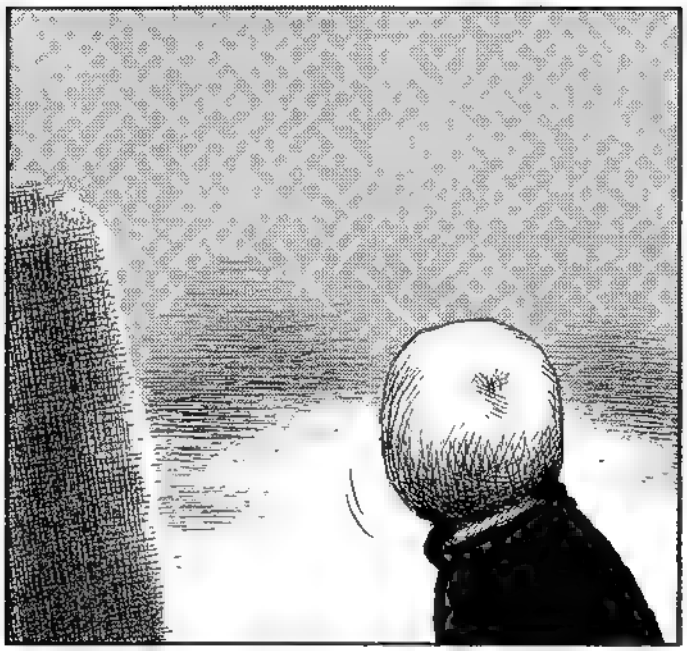
HUH?
THE PLACE IS BEING STAKED OUT.
Whisper Whisper
WE CAN'T GO BACK TO OUR HIDEOUT.


THEY'RE PROBABLY STILL IN THE MIDDLE OF THEIR INVESTI-GATION.
IT DOESN'T FEEL LIKE WE CAN HEAD BACK IN YET.


THINGS WOULD HAVE BEEN BAD IF WE HADN'T SNUCK OUT...

SEEMS LIKE IT.
IS IT THE SE-CURITY POLICE?

THEY SAY THE SECURITY POLICE ARE ACTING STRANGE.
WE RECEIVED CONTACT FROM OUR GUYS WHO INFILTRATED THE GARRISON.



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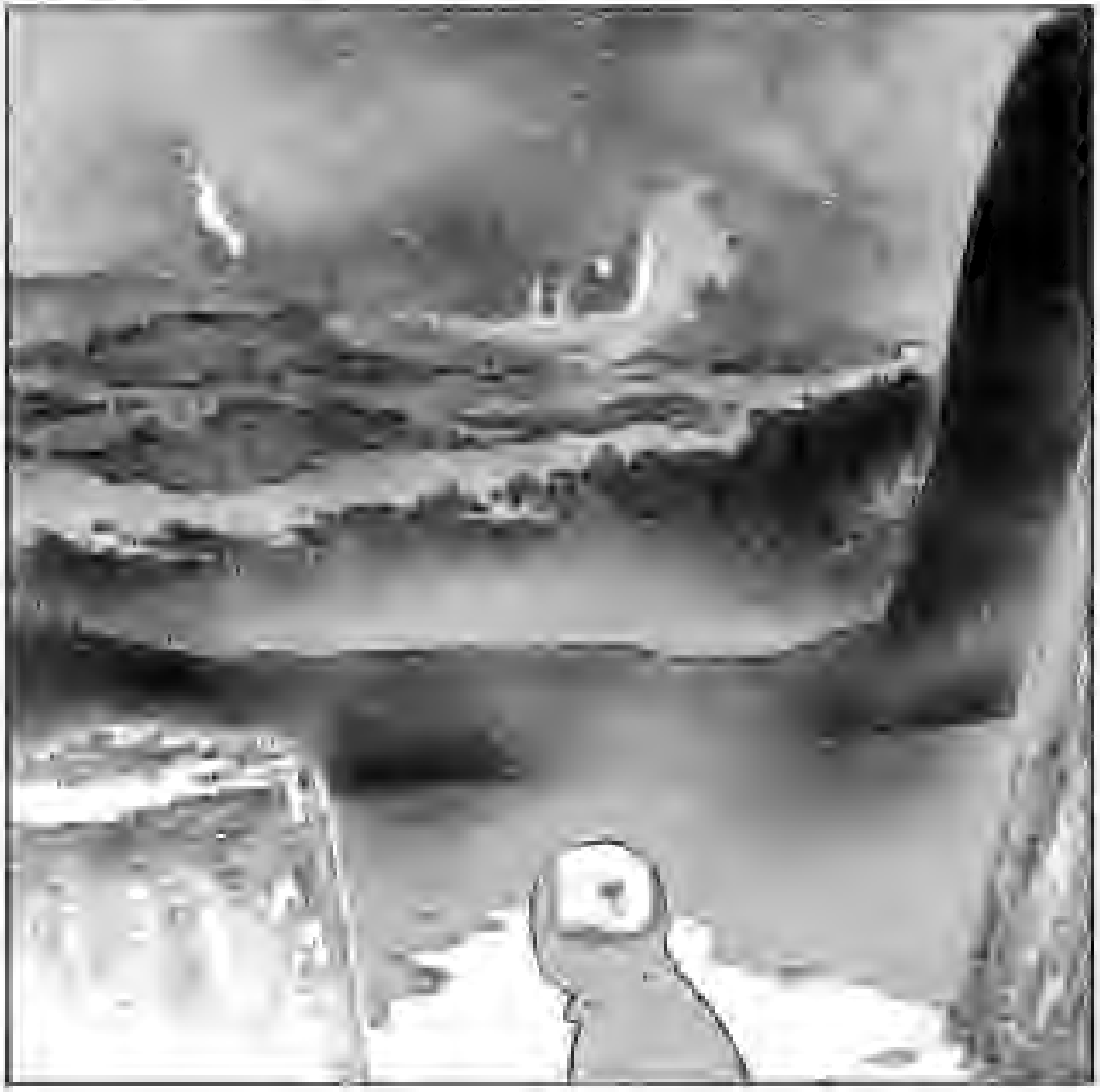
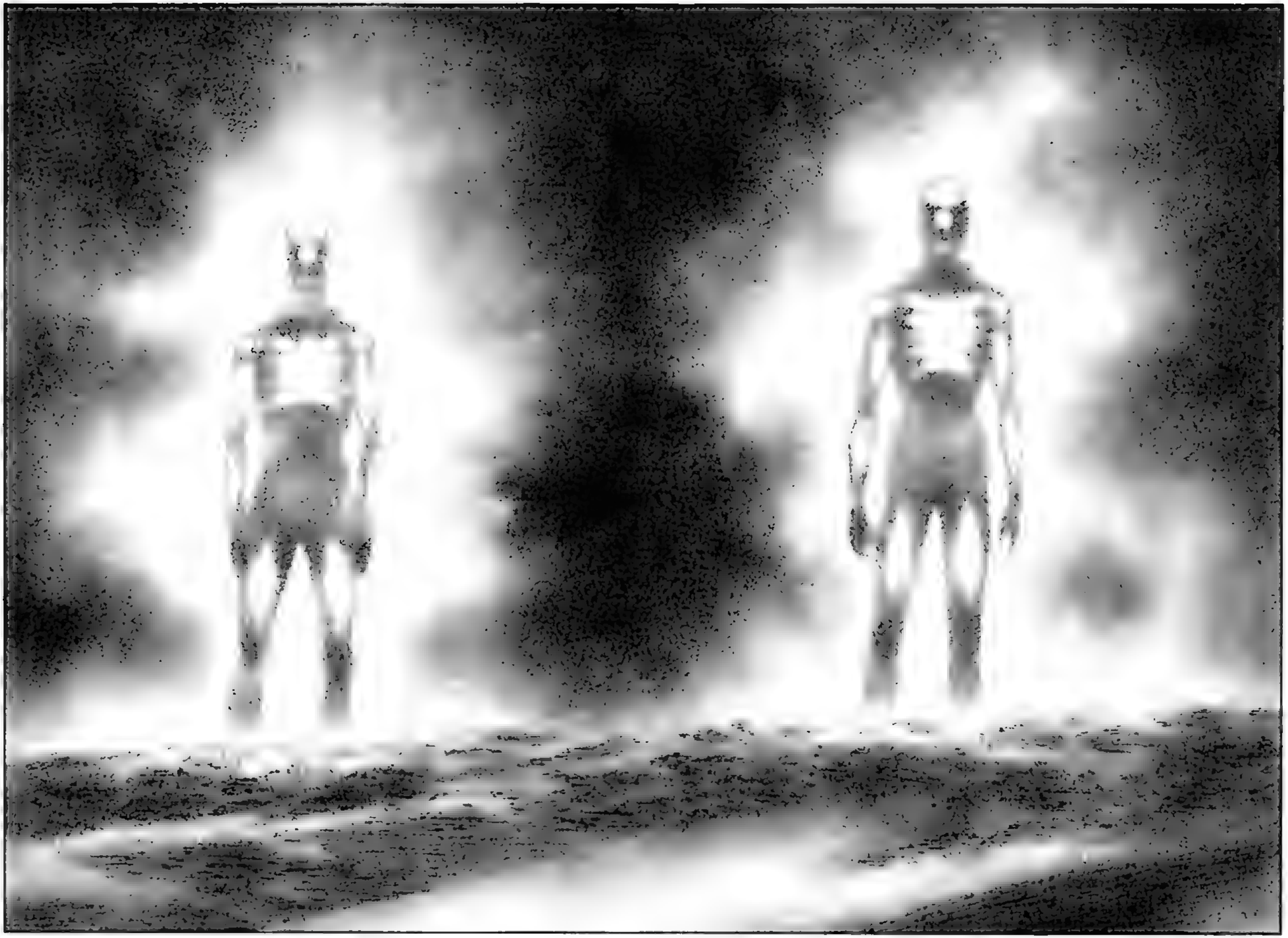
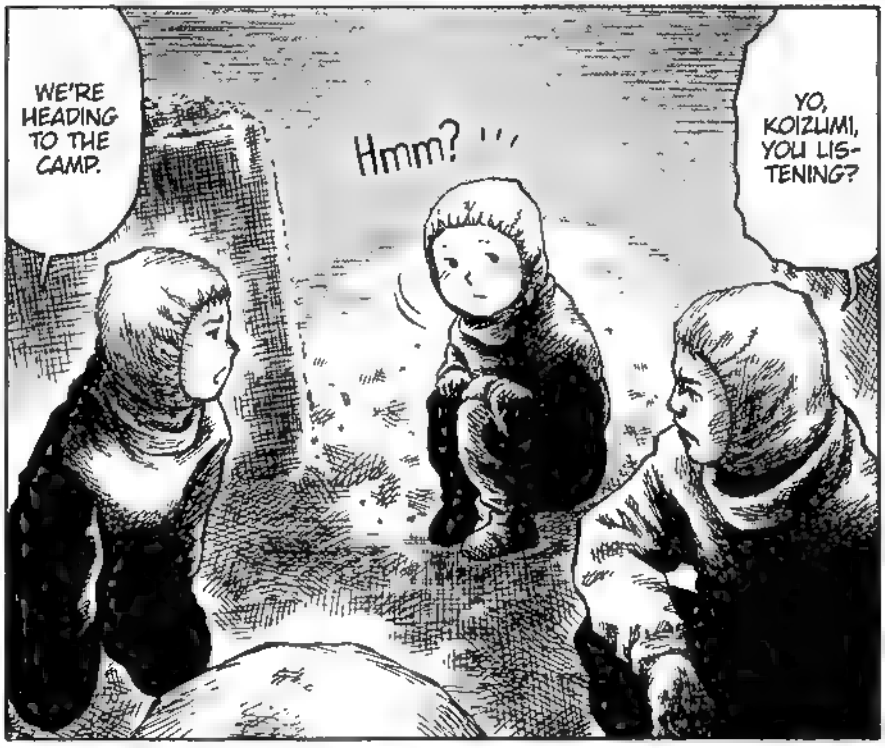
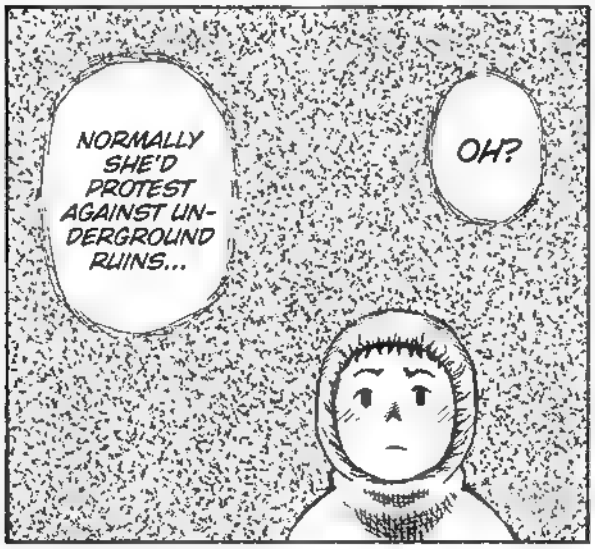
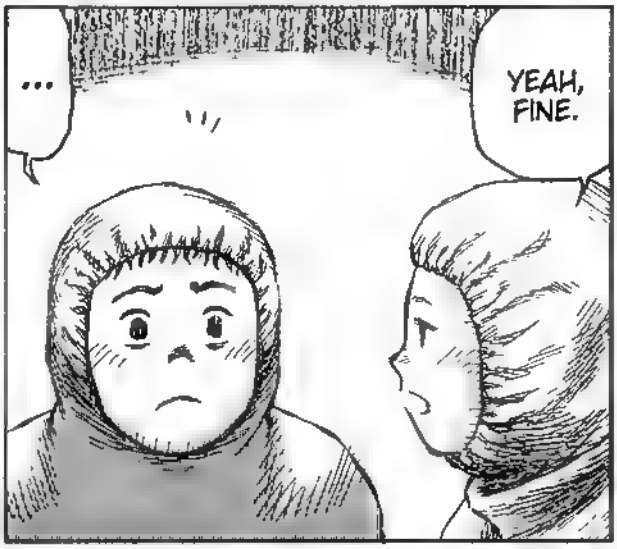


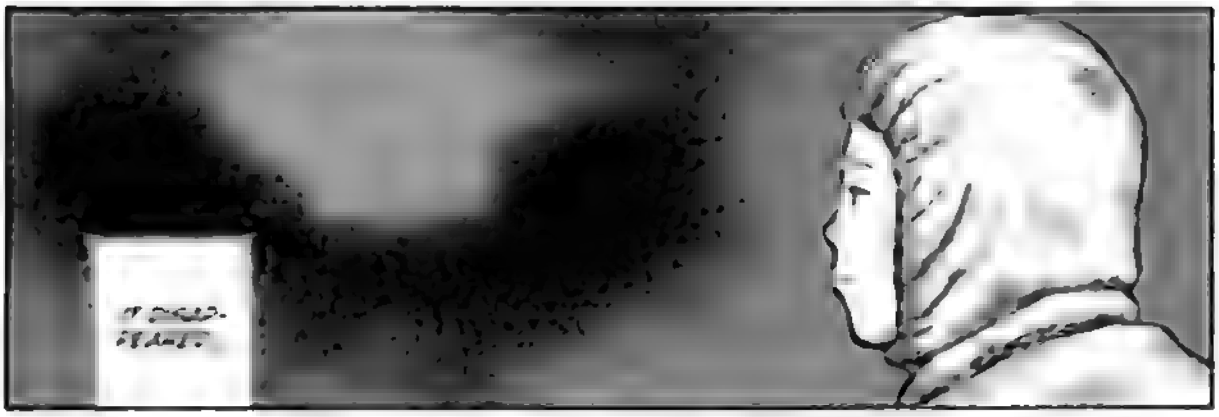


WE'RE GOING BACK DOWN TO THE UNDERGROUND RUIN...
WILL YOU BE OKAY?

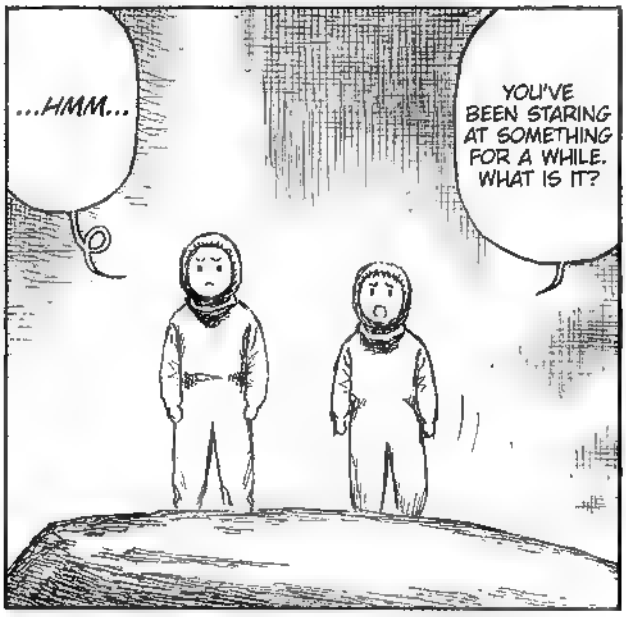

WE'RE HEADING TO THE CAMP.
Hmm?
YO, KOIZUMI, YOU LISTENING?


NORMALLY SHE'D PROTEST AGAINST UNDERGROUND RUINS...
OH?


...
YEAH, FINE.

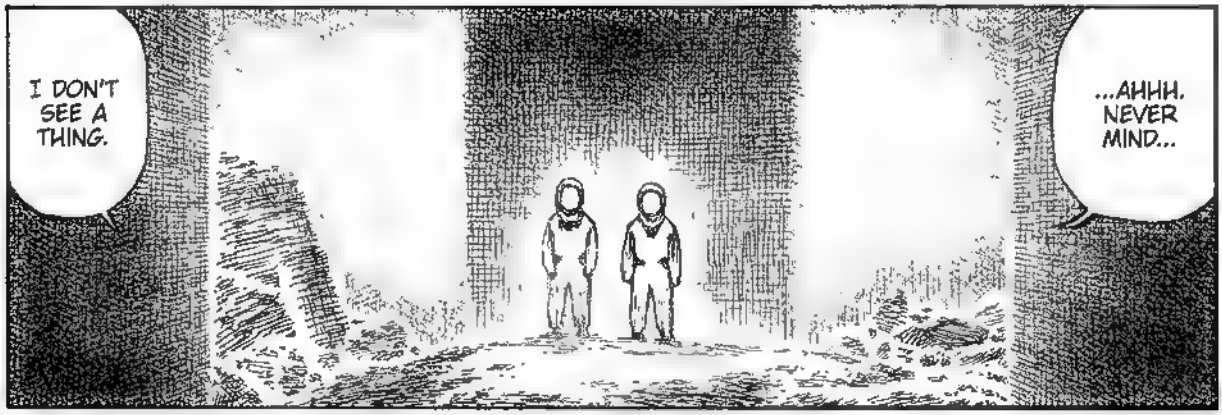


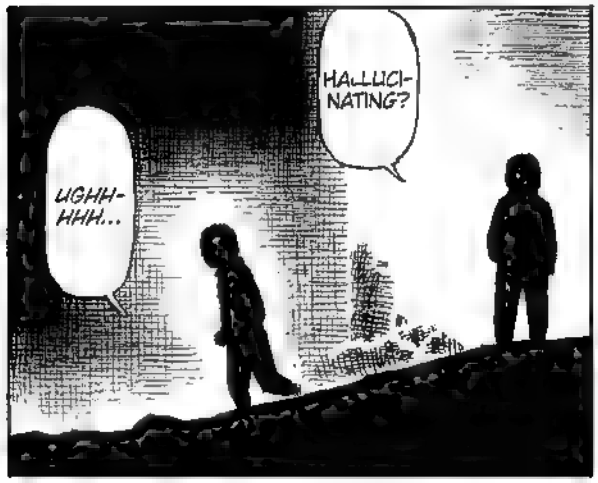
AGH...


...HMM...
YOU'VE BEEN STARING AT SOMETHING FOR A WHILE. WHAT IS IT?

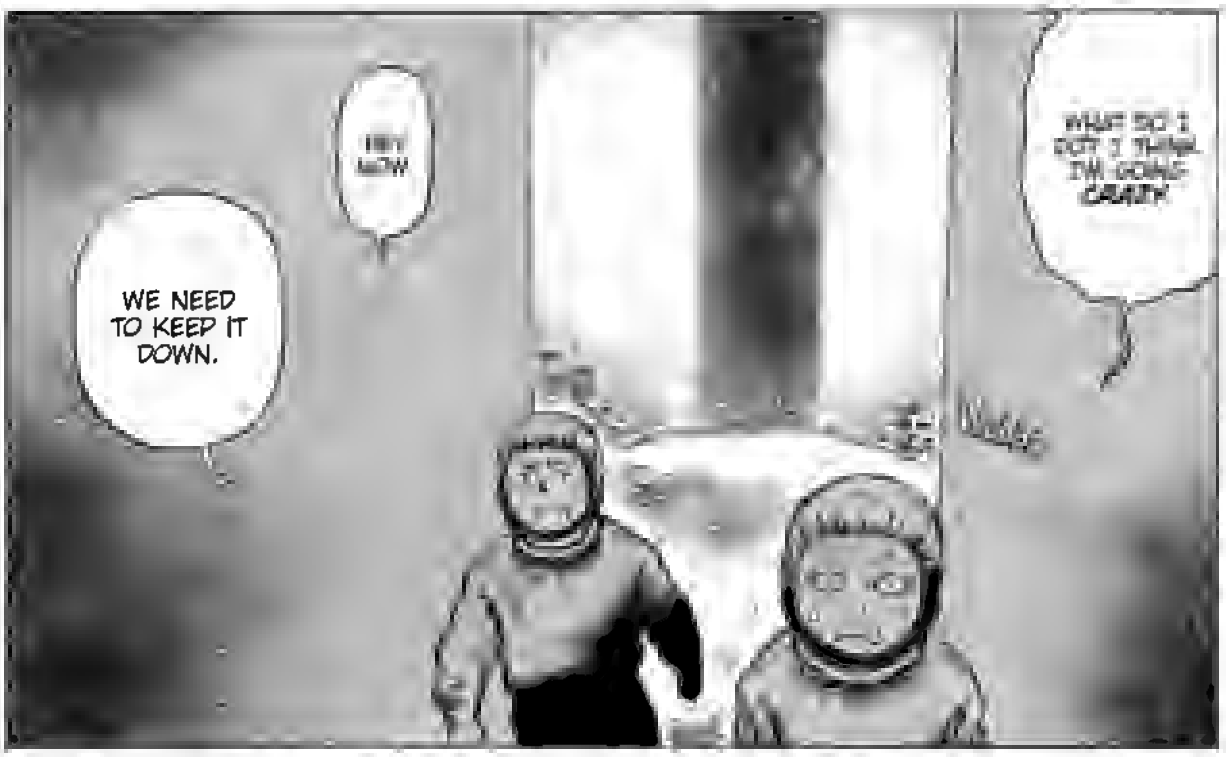
Ghosts?
...HUH?
Ba-dump
Ba-dump

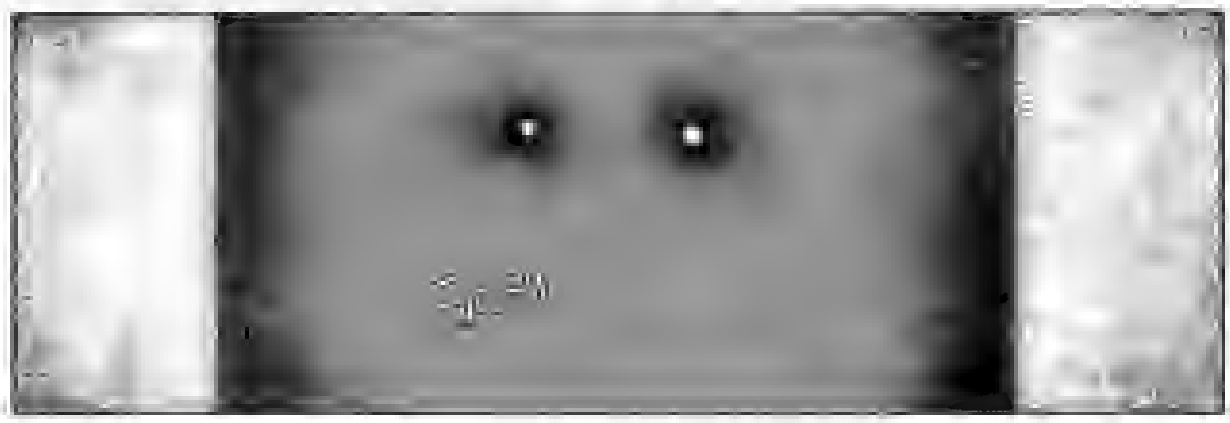
YOU SEE THEM?
THERE ARE TWO FUZZY-LOOKING GHOSTS OVER THERE.


I DON'T SEE A THING.
...AHHH. NEVER MIND...

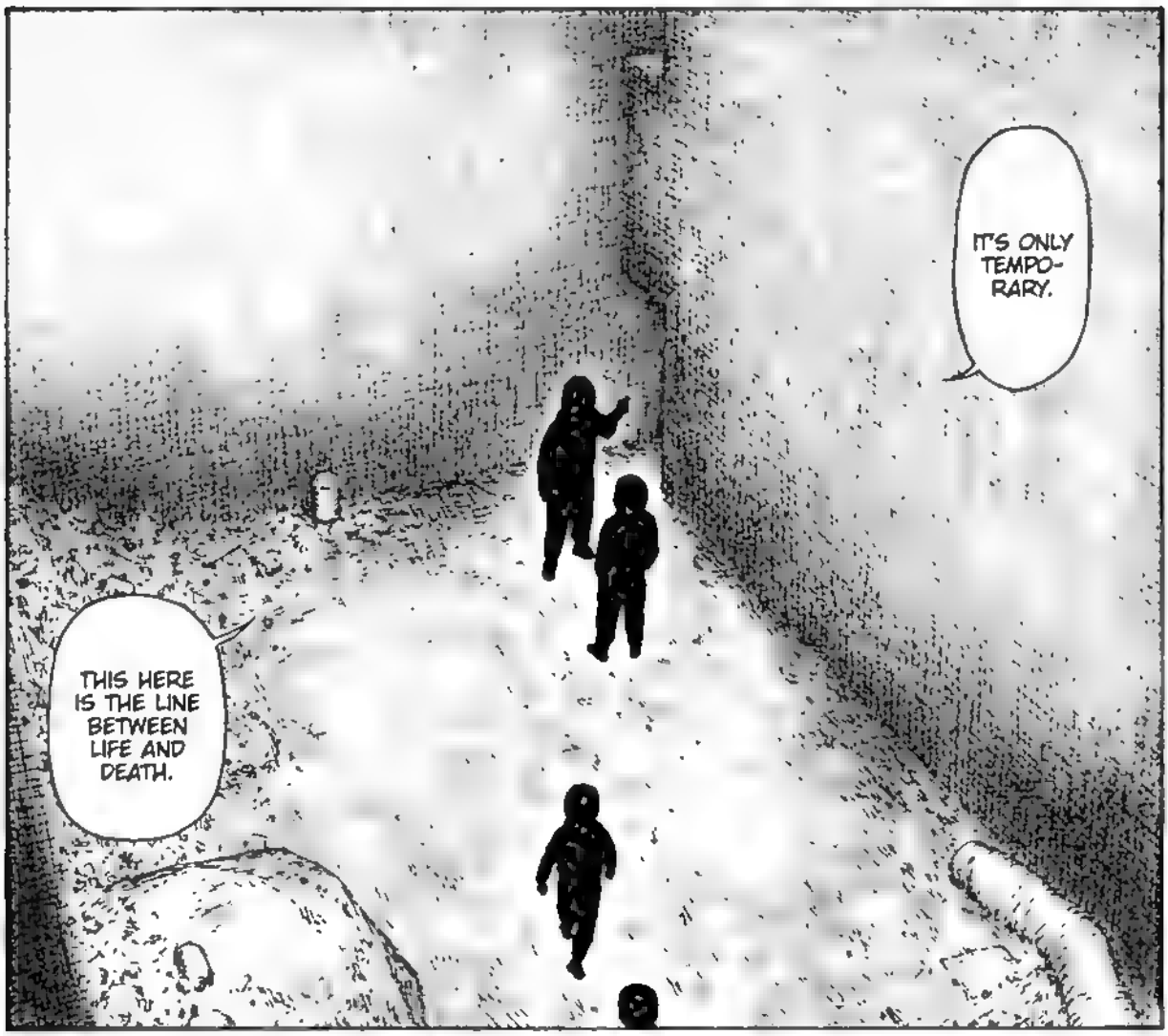

UGHH-HHH...
HALLUCI-NATING?

...HALLU-CINATING, HUH?
I'M REALLY JUST...


WE NEED TO KEEP IT DOWN.
HEY NOW
WHAT DO I DO? I THINK I'M GOING CRAZY.

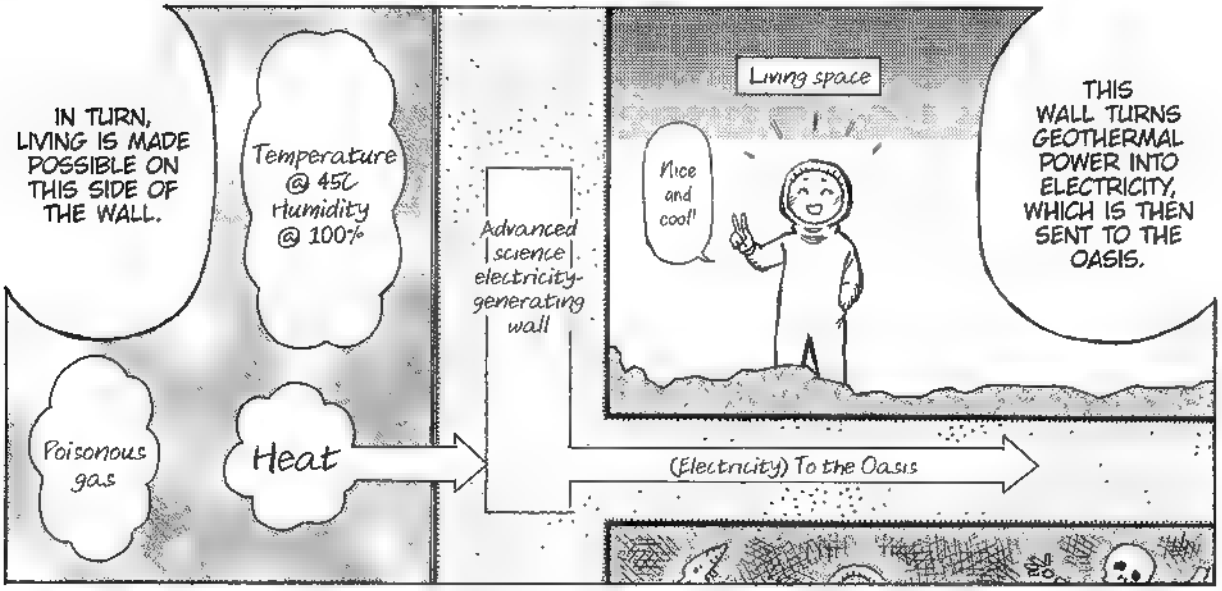


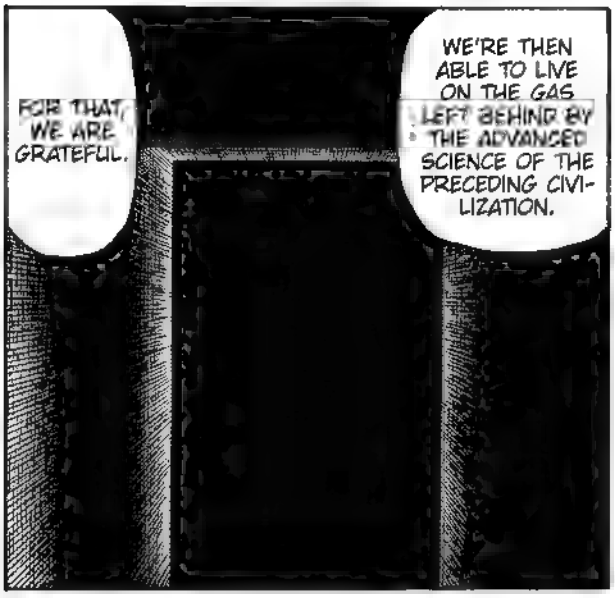
WE'RE HERE.
REALLY? WE HAVEN'T GONE FAR AT ALL.


IT'S ONLY TEMPO-RARY.
THIS HERE IS THE LINE BETWEEN LIFE AND DEATH.

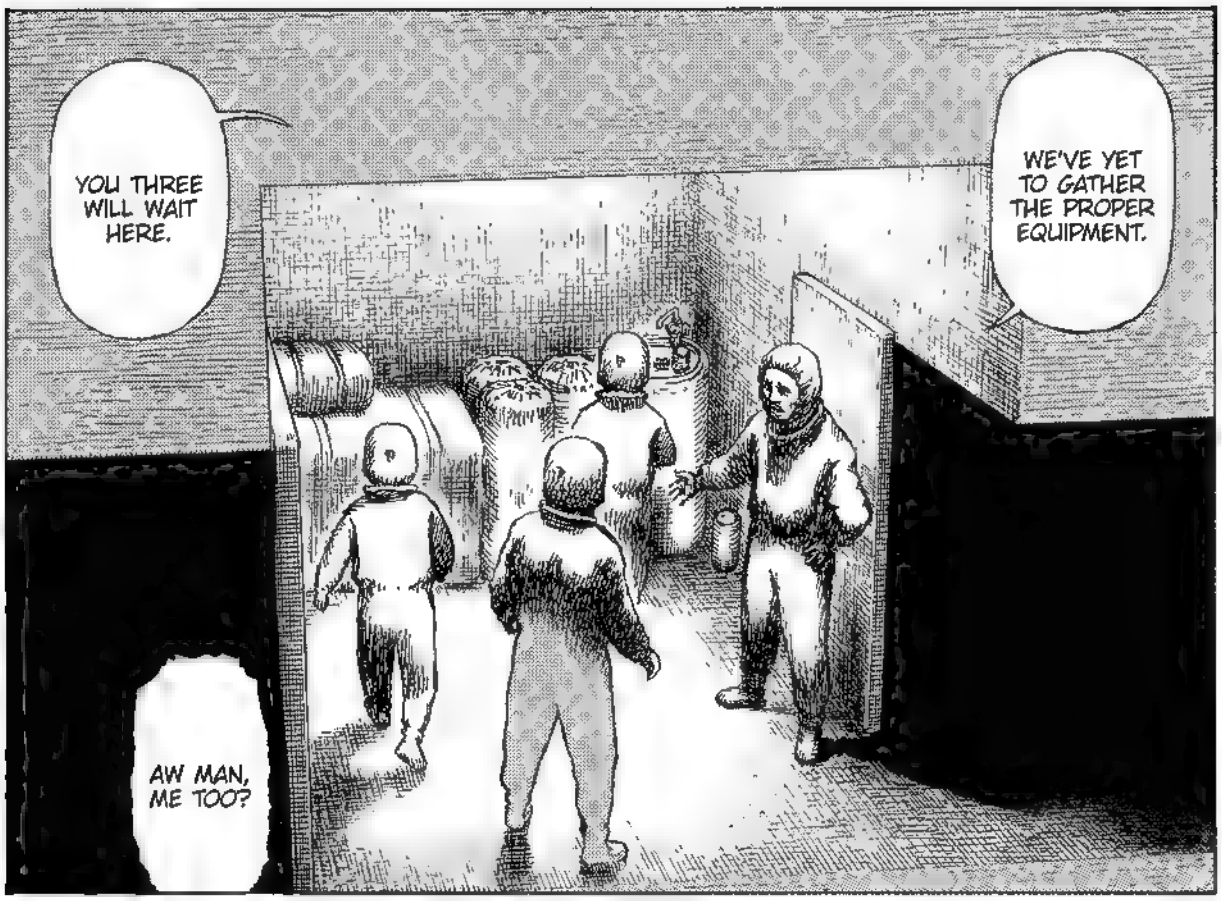
ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THIS WALL...
...IS A HELL FILLED TO THE BRIM WITH VERY HOT, VERY HUMID, POISONOUS GAS.
WE WON'T BE ABLE TO ADVANCE WITHOUT PROPER EQUIPMENT.
Pat

THIS WAS A SYSTEM CONSTRUCTED DURING THE DARK AGES, WHEN HUMANITY WAS FORCED UNDERGROUND FOR THE SAKE OF SURVIVAL.
A LIVING RUIN, HUH?

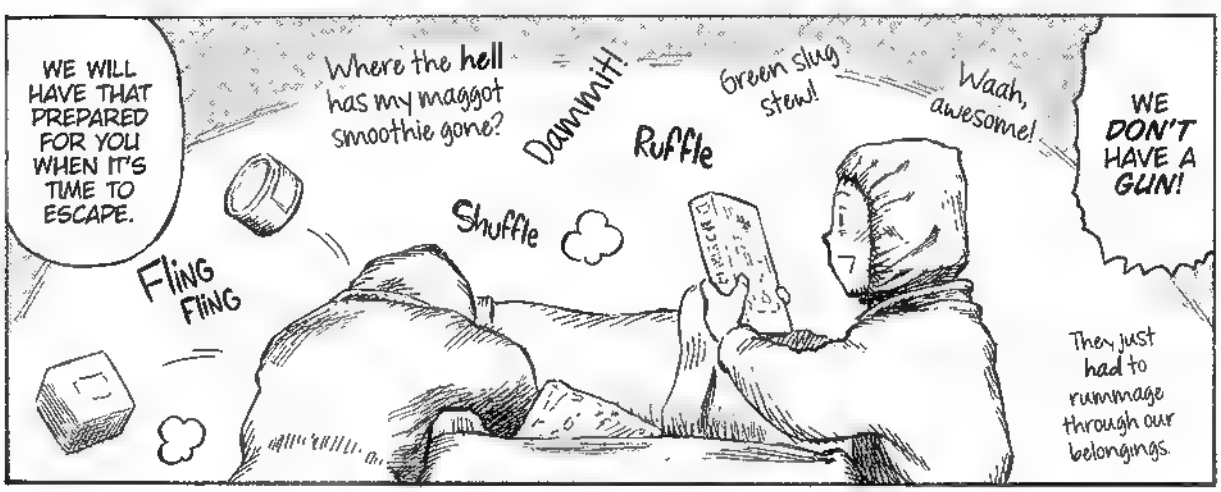

IN TURN, LIVING IS MADE POSSIBLE ON THIS SIDE OF THE WALL.
Temperature @ 45℃ Humidity @ 100%
Poisonous gas
Heat
Advanced science electricity-generating wall
Living space
Nice and cool!
THIS WALL TURNS GEOTHERMAL POWER INTO ELECTRICITY, WHICH IS THEN SENT TO THE OASIS.
(Electricity) To the Oasis

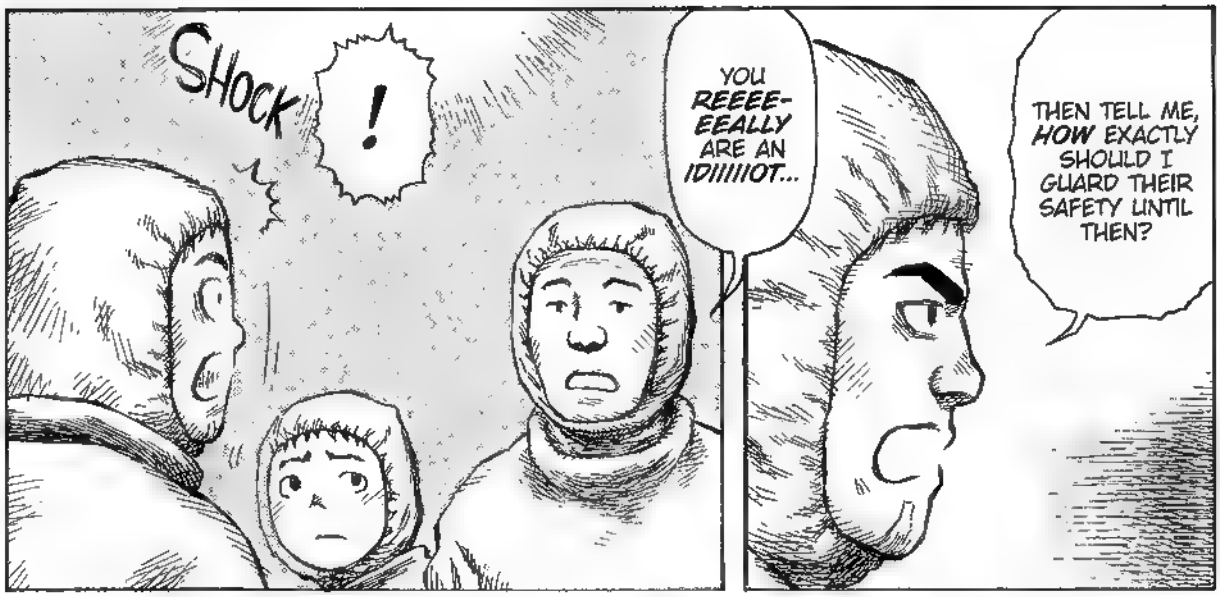

FOR THAT, WE ARE GRATEFUL.
WE'RE THEN ABLE TO LIVE ON THE GAS LEFT BEHIND BY THE ADVANCED SCIENCE OF THE PRECEDING CIVILIZATION.

THE FACT THAT A SYSTEM, BUILT HUNDREDS OF YEARS AGO, IS STILL ALIVE AND WELL MAKES IT ALL THE MORE AWESOME.
EVEN THOUGH ONLY A SMALL PART REMAINS,


YOU THREE WILL WAIT HERE.
WE'VE YET TO GATHER THE PROPER EQUIPMENT.
AW MAN, ME TOO?

...
Not that you have anything else to do.
YOU'RE IN CHARGE OF THOSE TWO'S SAFETY.


WE WILL HAVE THAT PREPARED FOR YOU WHEN IT'S TIME TO ESCAPE.
Where the hell has my maggot smoothie gone?
Dammit!
Green slug stew!
Waah, awesome!
Ruffle
Shuffle
Fling Fling
WE DON'T HAVE A GUN!
They just had to rummage through our belongings.


SHOCK
!
YOU REEEE-EEALLY ARE AN IDIIIIIOT...
THEN TELL ME, HOW EXACTLY SHOULD I GUARD THEIR SAFETY UNTIL THEN?

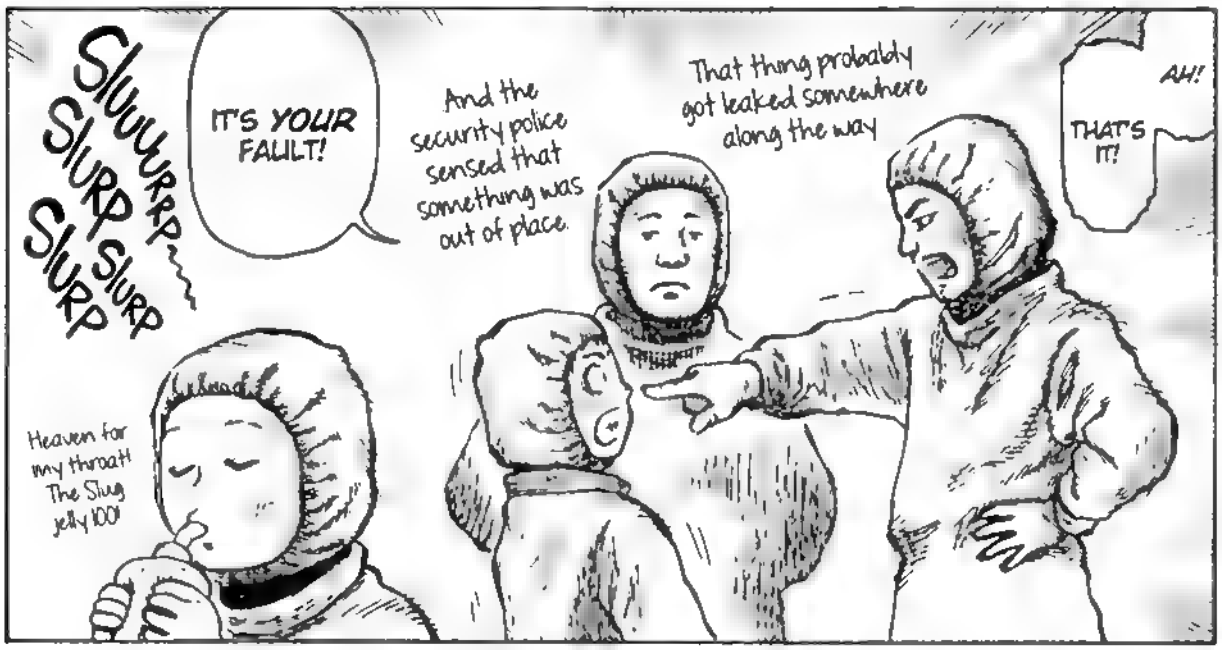
WHA?
IN THE UNLIKELY EVENT, TELL THEM YOU'RE A MOLE.

IF YOU'RE CAUGHT WITH A GUN ON YOU, IT'S STRAIGHT-UP GAME OVER.

IF IT ALL GOES WELL, BEST CASE SCENARIO IS YOU'D GET THROWN OUT.
If you banished us from here, we'd have no place to go!
We will die!
Oh, great officer!
Spare me!

...MY FAULT, ISN'T IT?
IT-IT-IT REALLY IS...
Ruffle Shuffle

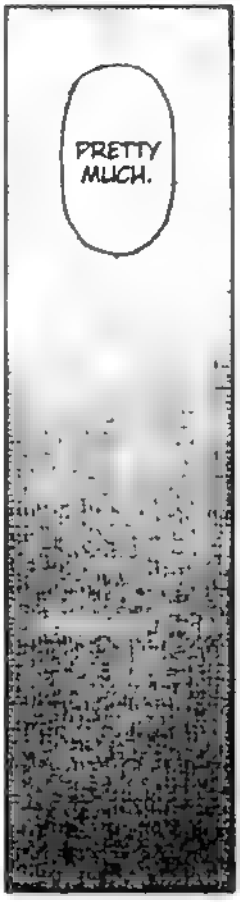
...SOME-THING UNNEC-ESSARY.
ALL BECAUSE I DID...

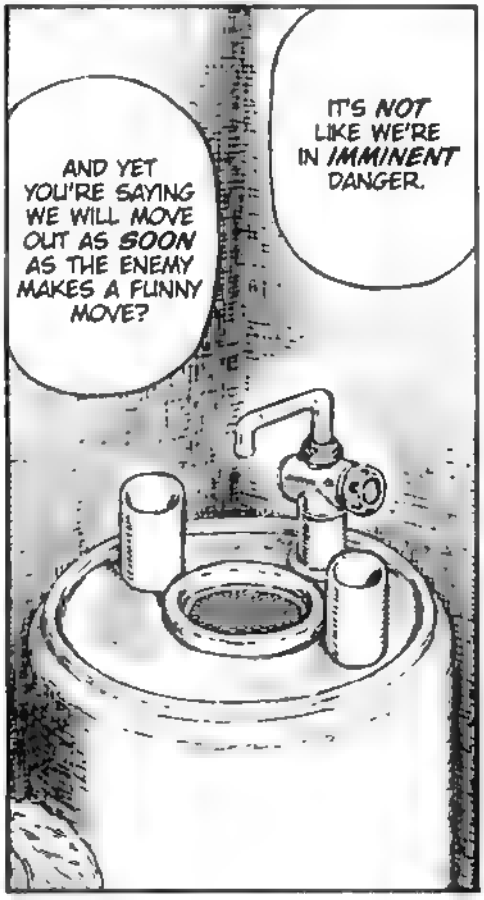

Sluuurrp~
Slurp Slurp
Slurp
IT'S YOUR FAULT!
And the security police sensed that something was out of place.
That thing probably got leaked somewhere along the way
AH!
THAT'S IT!
Heaven for my throat! The Slug jelly 100!

WE'LL FOCUS ALL OUR EFFORT ON INFORMATION GATHERING.

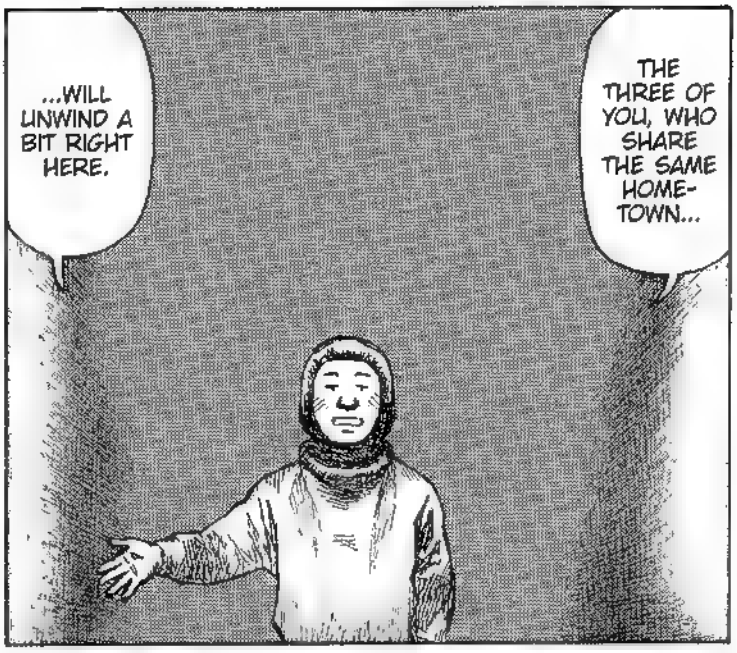
BUT WE STILL DON'T KNOW ANYTHING YET.
YOU COULD BE RIGHT.

I GUESS YOU STILL AREN'T FAMILIAR WITH THE WAY WE DO THINGS HERE.
IT HASN'T BEEN LONG SINCE YOU'VE COME TO LEND US A HAND.


PRETTY MUCH.


AND YET YOU'RE SAYING WE WILL MOVE OUT AS SOON AS THE ENEMY MAKES A FUNNY MOVE?
IT'S NOT LIKE WE'RE IN IMMINENT DANGER.

Fuck!
TELLING US TO FUCK OFF 'COS WE'RE IN YOUR WAY, IS THIS WHAT IT IS?


...WILL UNWIND A BIT RIGHT HERE.
THE THREE OF YOU, WHO SHARE THE SAME HOME-TOWN...

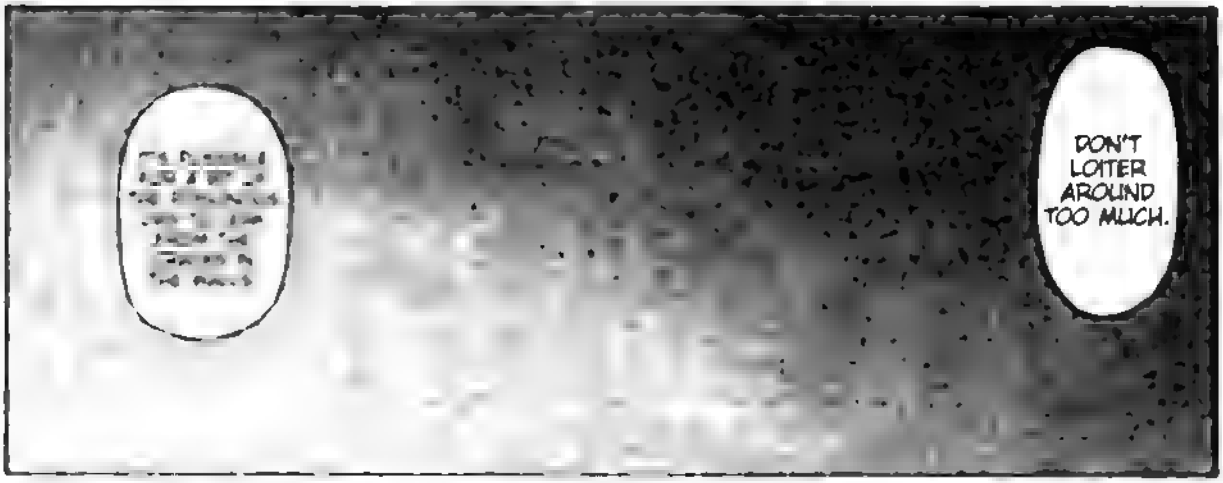
...
Hm?
Speaking of which.
I GUESS YOU'D HAVE TO LISTEN TO WHAT KOIZUMI SAYS.

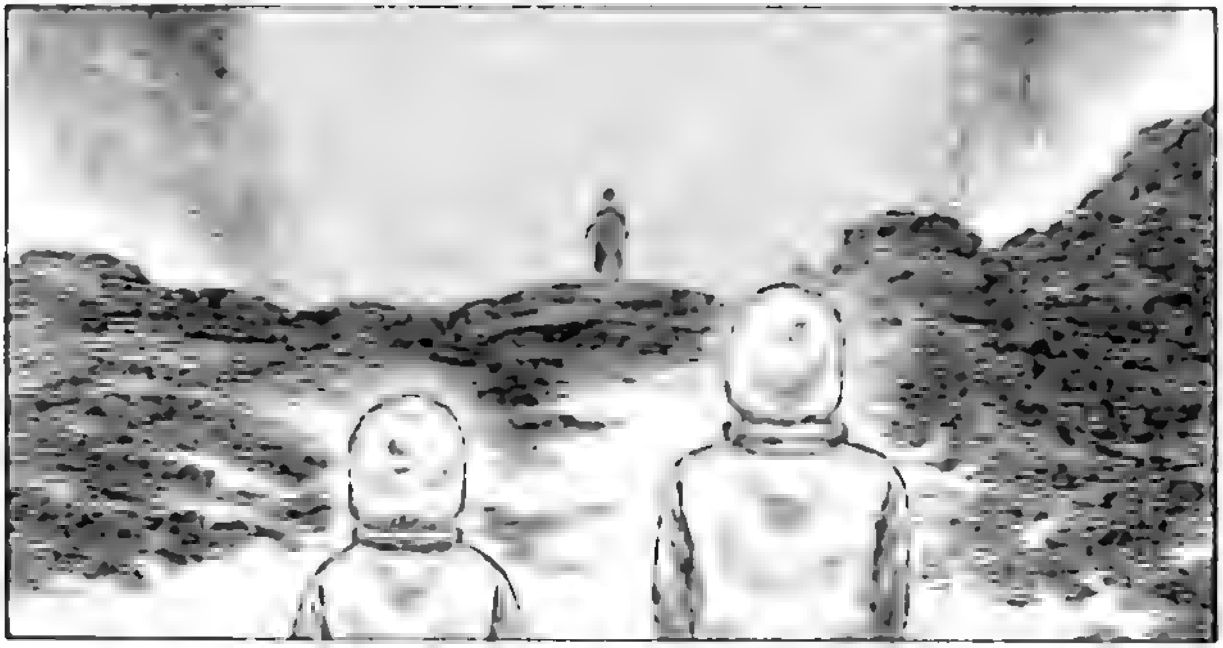
...YE-YES SIR.
DON'T LET HER OUT OF YOUR SIGHT.

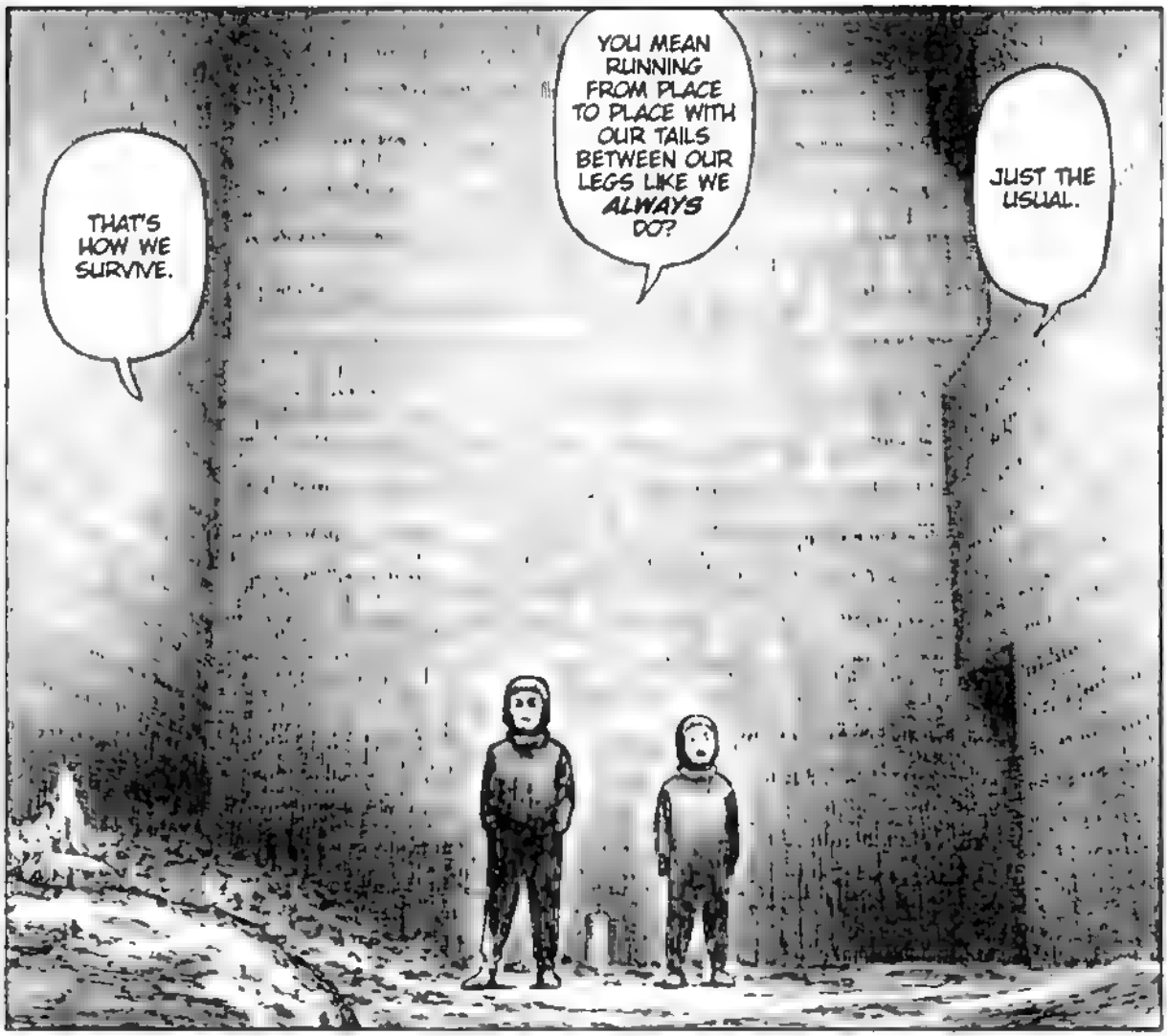
YES-SIR!
I'LL LEAVE KOIZUMI IN YOUR CARE.
YOU UN-DER-STAND?
DR. KOIDEMIZU WON'T BE ABLE TO GIVE YOU A CHECK-UP FOR THE TIME BEING.

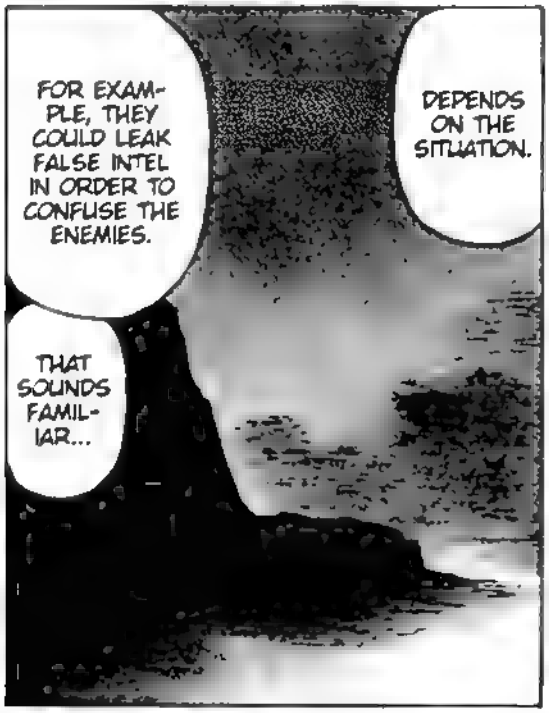
I'VE GOT TO PROTECT HER.

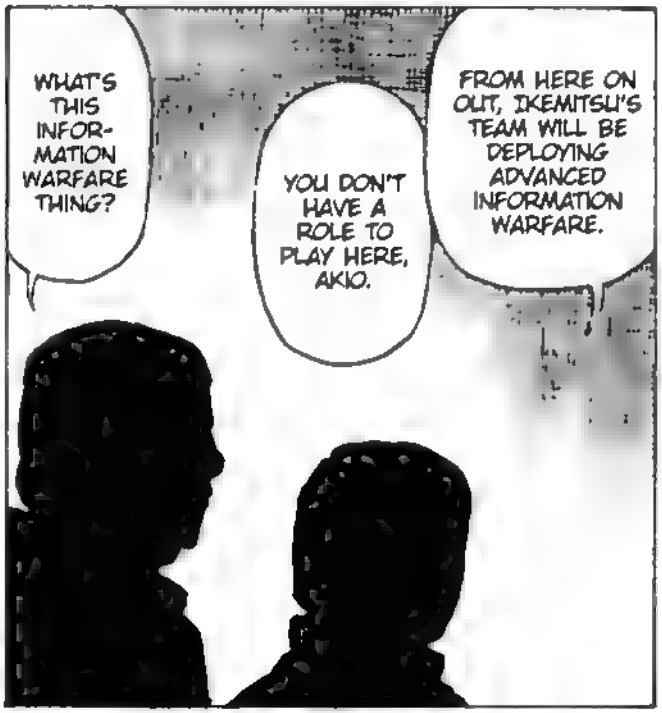
MISS TAIKO HAS YET TO


DON'T LOITER AROUND TOO MUCH.




THAT'S HOW WE SURVIVE.
YOU MEAN RUNNING FROM PLACE TO PLACE WITH OUR TAILS BETWEEN OUR LEGS LIKE WE ALWAYS DO?
JUST THE USUAL.


FOR EXAMPLE, THEY COULD LEAK FALSE INTEL IN ORDER TO CONFUSE THE ENEMIES.
DEPENDS ON THE SITUATION.
THAT SOUNDS FAMILIAR...

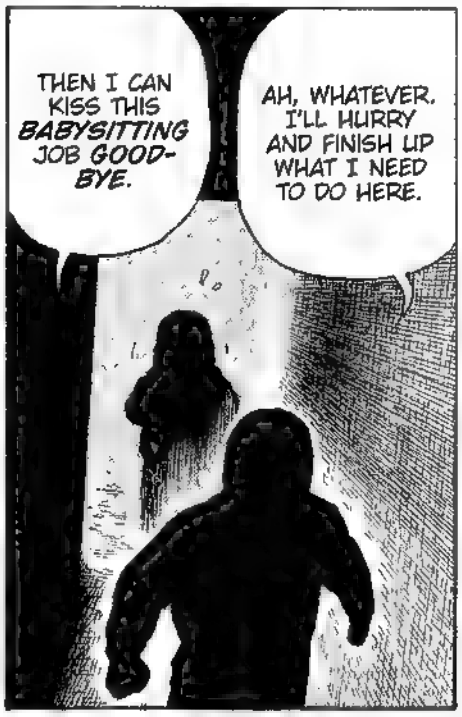

WHAT'S THIS INFORMATION WARFARE THING?
YOU DON'T HAVE A ROLE TO PLAY HERE, AKIO.
FROM HERE ON OUT, IKEMITSU'S TEAM WILL BE DEPLOYING ADVANCED INFORMATION WARFARE.

IT REALLY IS, IF YOU'RE NOT CLEVER ENOUGH.
THIS IS WAY TOO COMPLICATED.
IT'S NOT MY KINDA THING.
AHHH... NO GOOD.

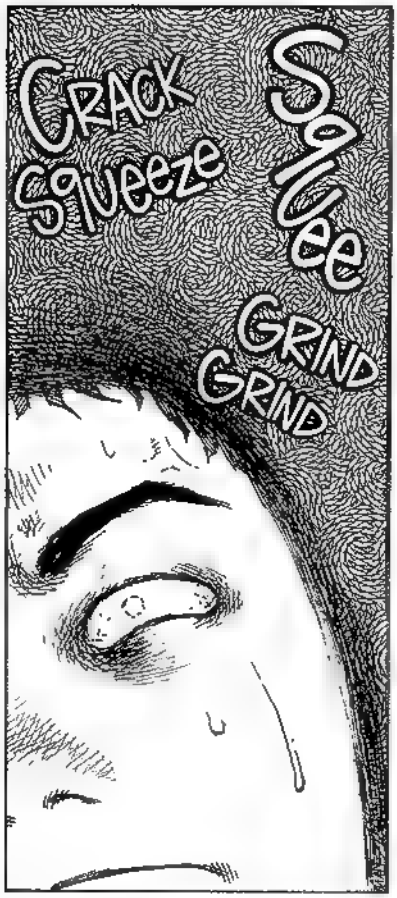
OUEGH...

AEGH!
SOWWWWY!
This mouth of yours!
PINCH
Tug
Tug
Tug

SHHH!
GLARE
SNORE
AAAND, SHE'S GONE TO SLEEP!

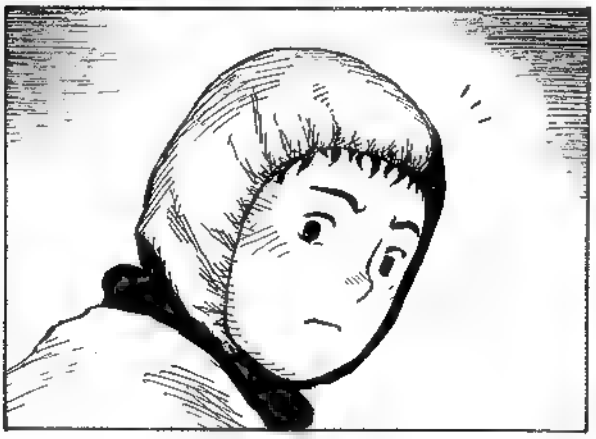

THEN I CAN KISS THIS BABYSITTING JOB GOOD-BYE.
AH, WHATEVER. I'LL HURRY AND FINISH UP WHAT I NEED TO DO HERE.

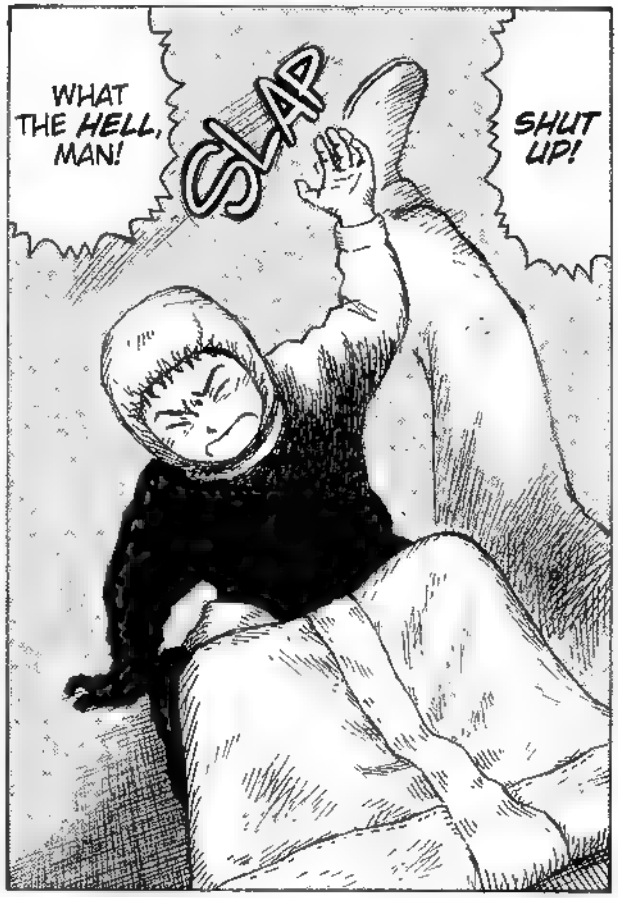
SNORE
SNORE
ZZZZ
Uhhg~
Uuuughh
Ugh
GRIND
GRIND
GRIND
GRIND
Rustle
Rustle Rustle
Rustle
Rustle
Rustle

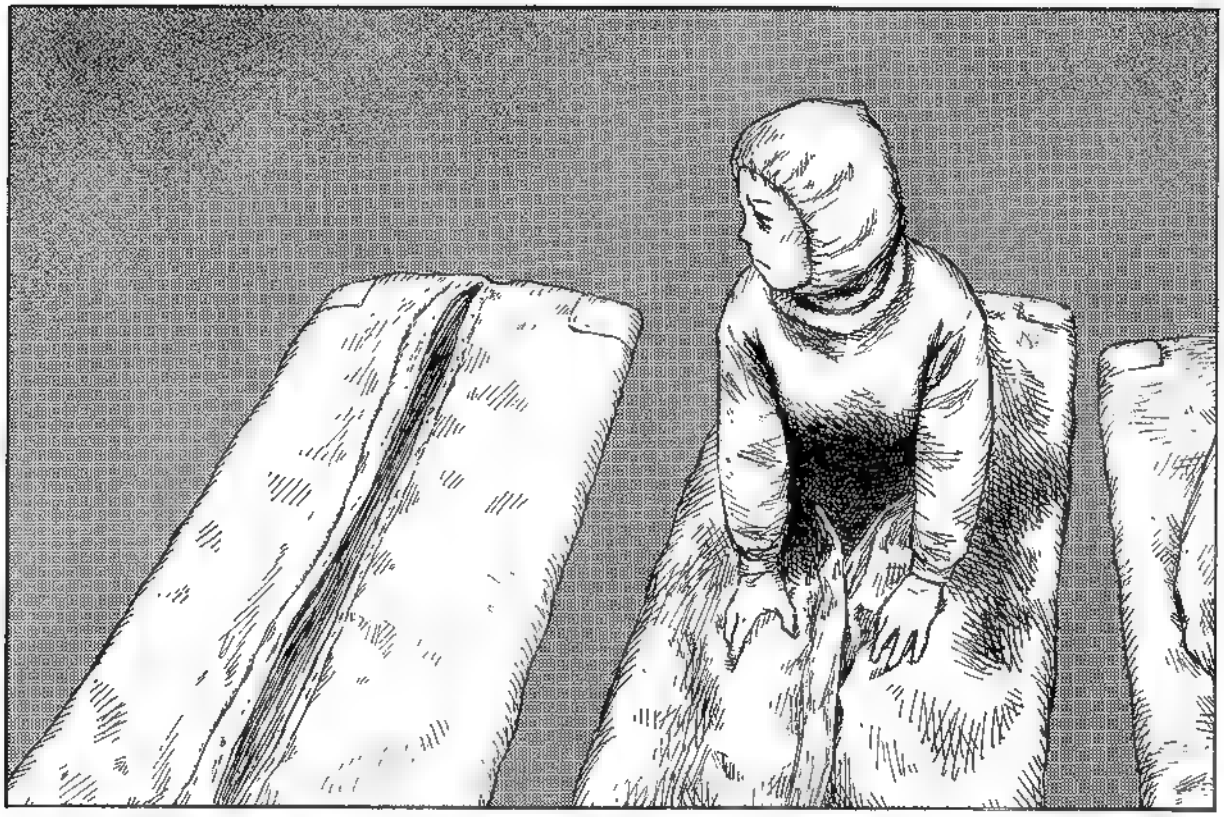

CRACK
SQUEEZE
SQUEE
GRIND
GRIND

.....
SNORE
SNORE

THP
bbbbbx

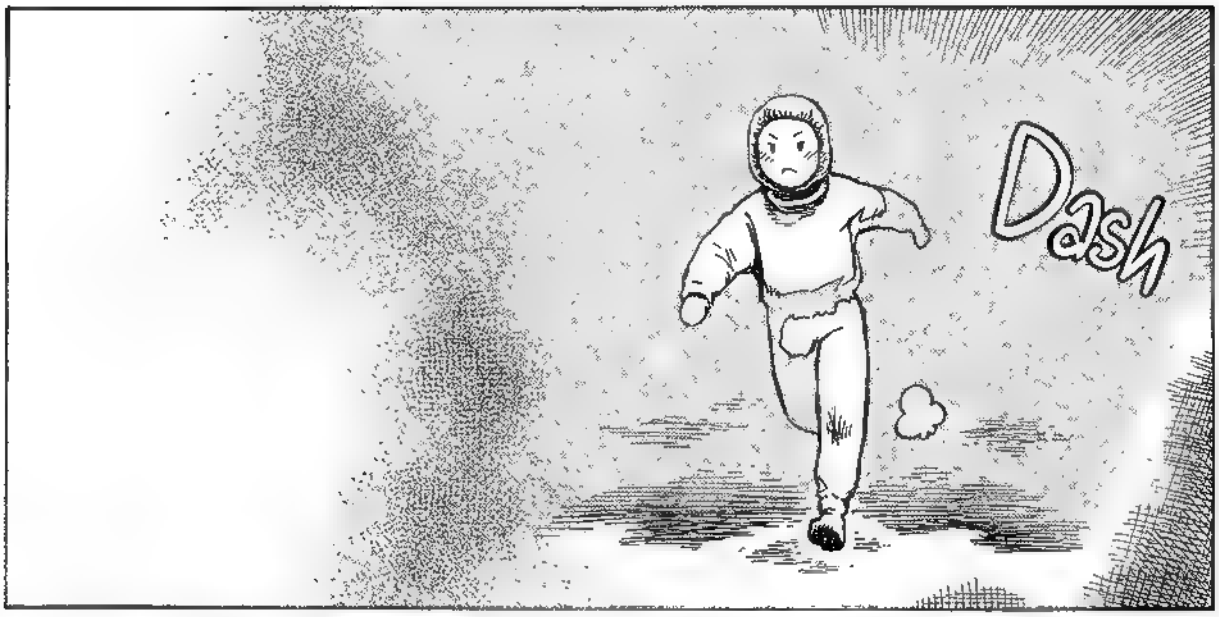


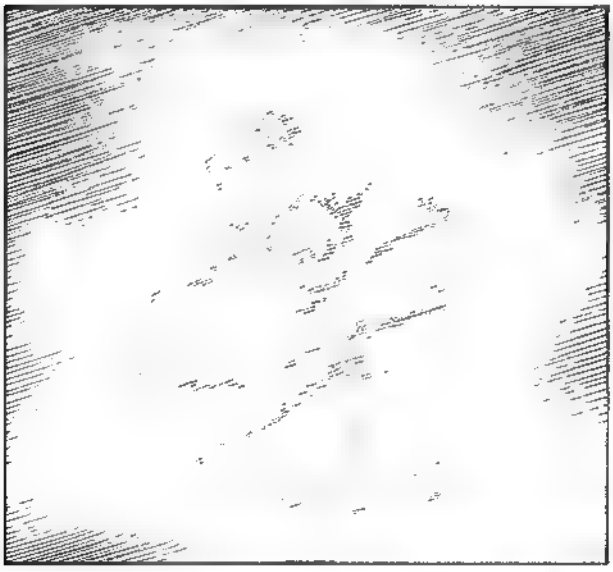

WHAT THE *HELL*, MAN!
SLAP
SHUT UP!

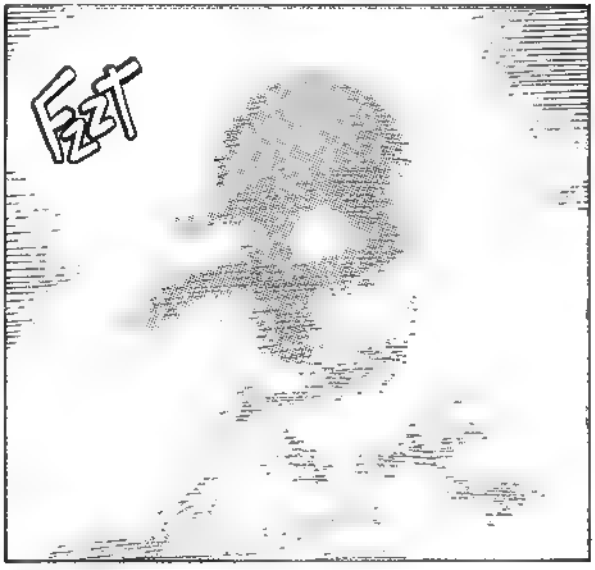


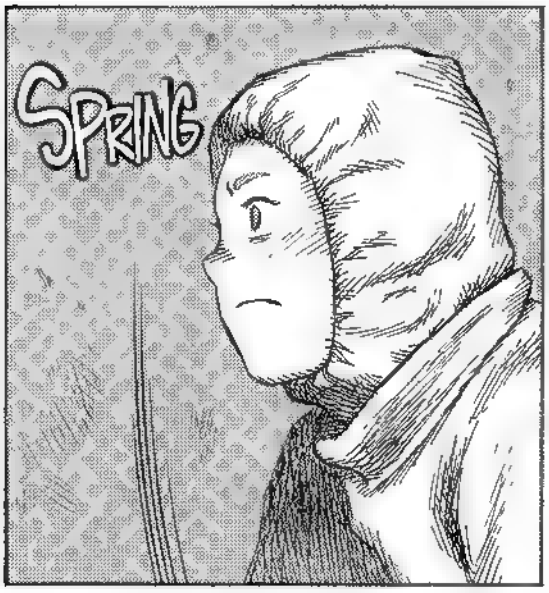
WENT TO THE TOILET, I GUESS.

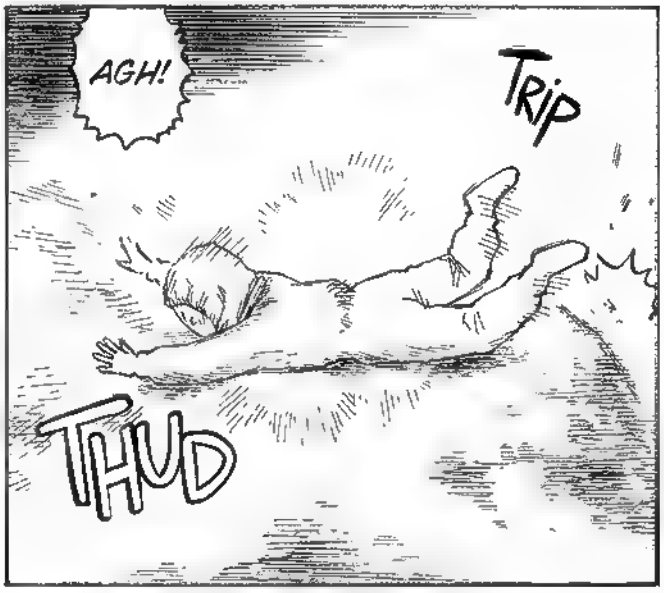
...
SNORE
SNORE


Dash




FZZT

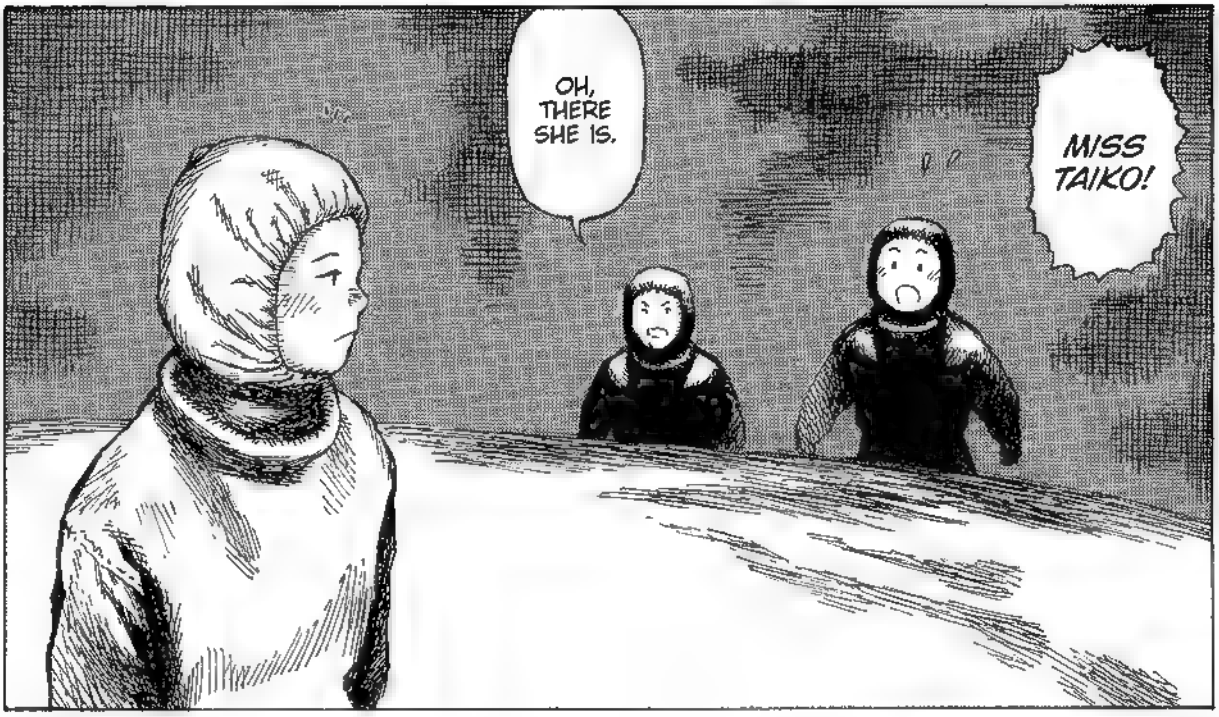

SPRING

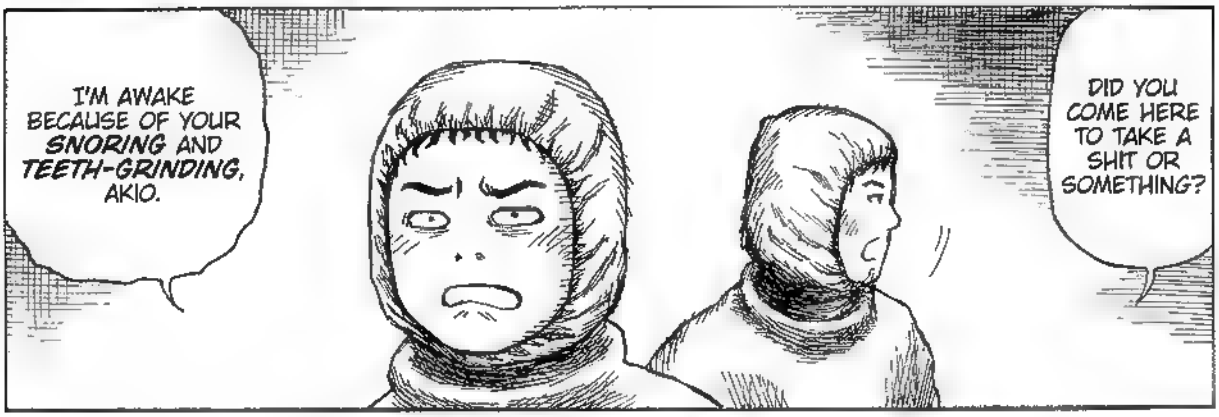

AGH!
TRIP
THUD

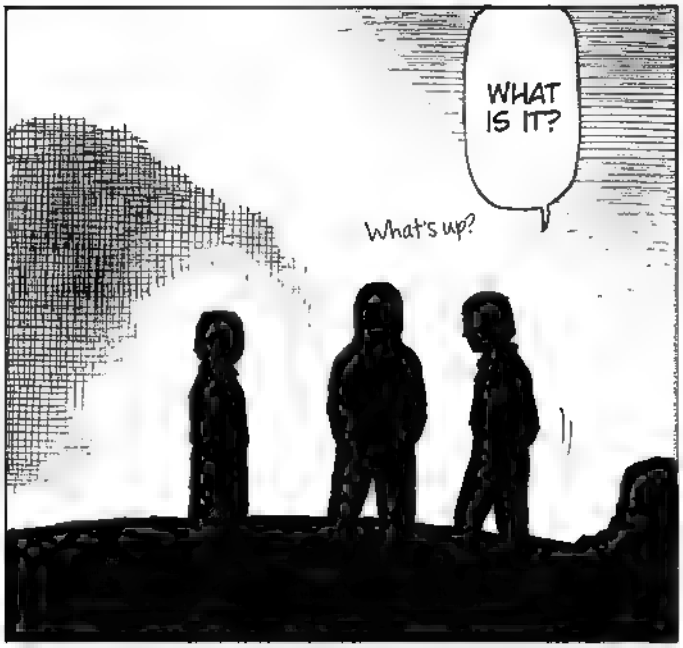
SNIFF
SNIFF

HMPH...
It disappeared

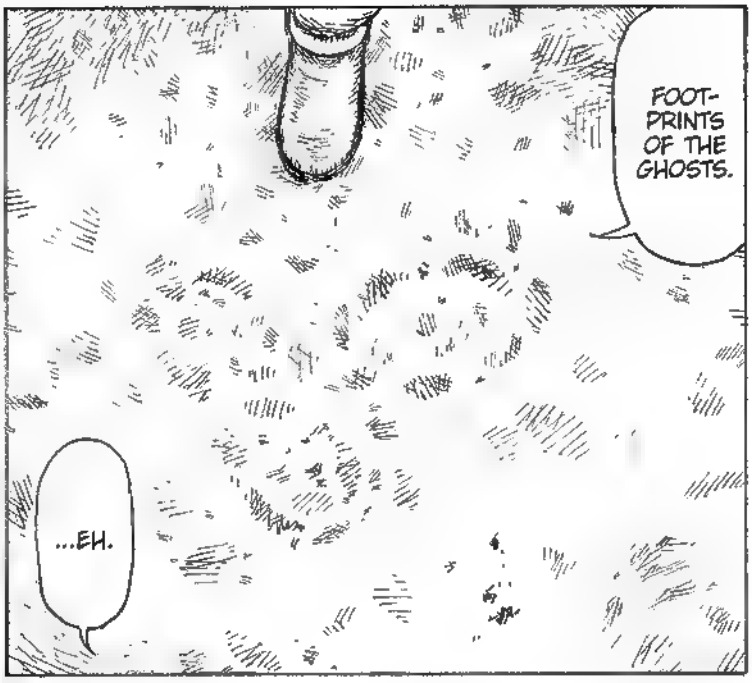
SNIFF
SNIFF
SNIFF
SNIFF


OH, THERE SHE IS.
MISS TAIKO!


I'M AWAKE BECAUSE OF YOUR SNORING AND TEETH-GRINDING, AKIO.
DID YOU COME HERE TO TAKE A SHIT OR SOMETHING?

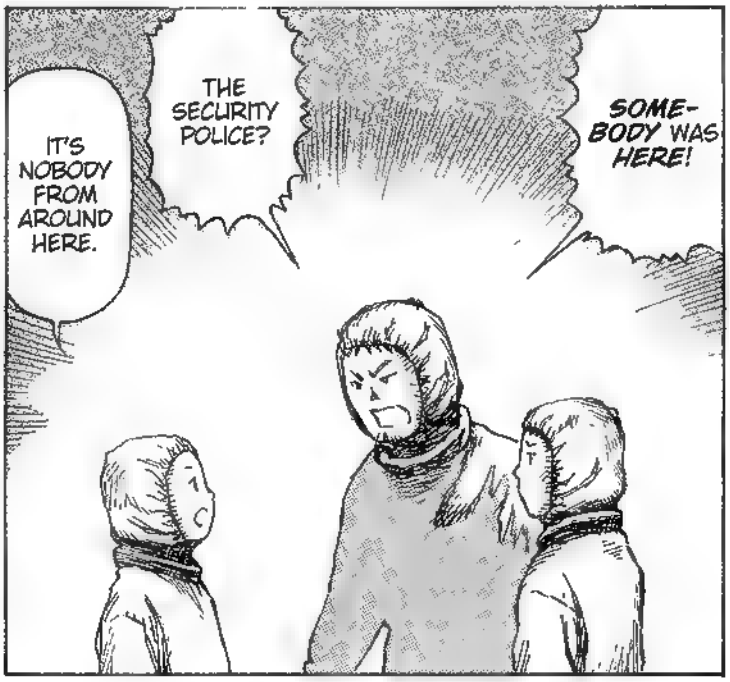

WHAT IS IT?
What's up?

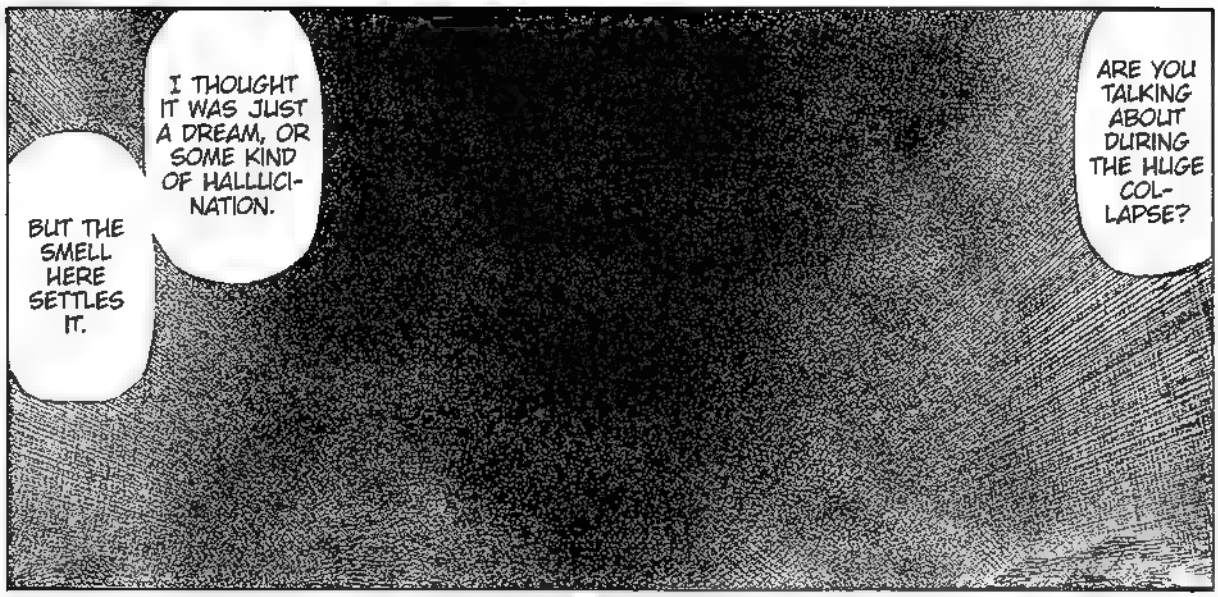
DID THEY APPEAR AGAIN?
WHAT?
HOW-EVER...


FOOT-PRINTS OF THE GHOSTS.
...EH.

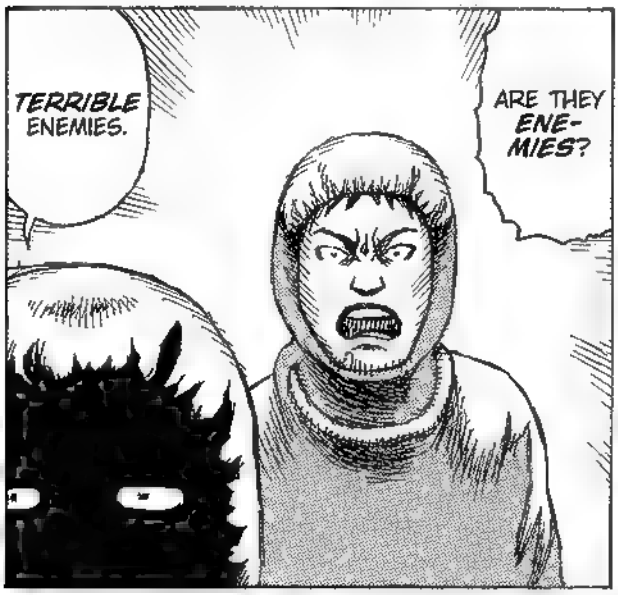
...
Hm.
IF THEY HAVE FOOT-PRINTS, THEN THEY AREN'T REALLY...

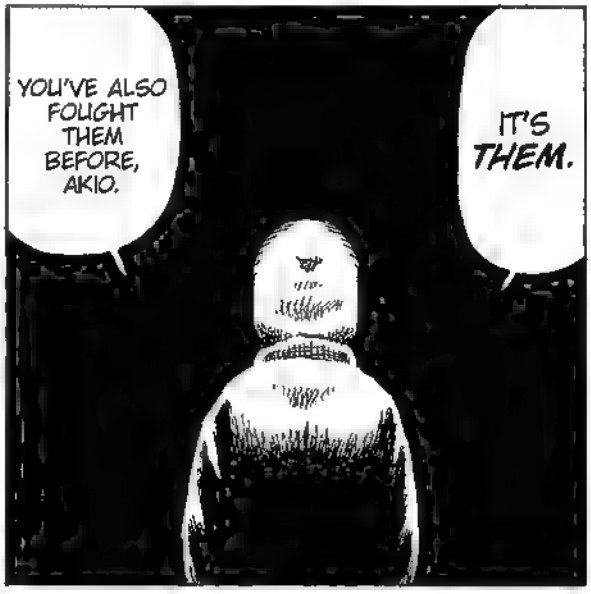
...
PROBABLY THOSE WHO SAVED MIZUSAKI.

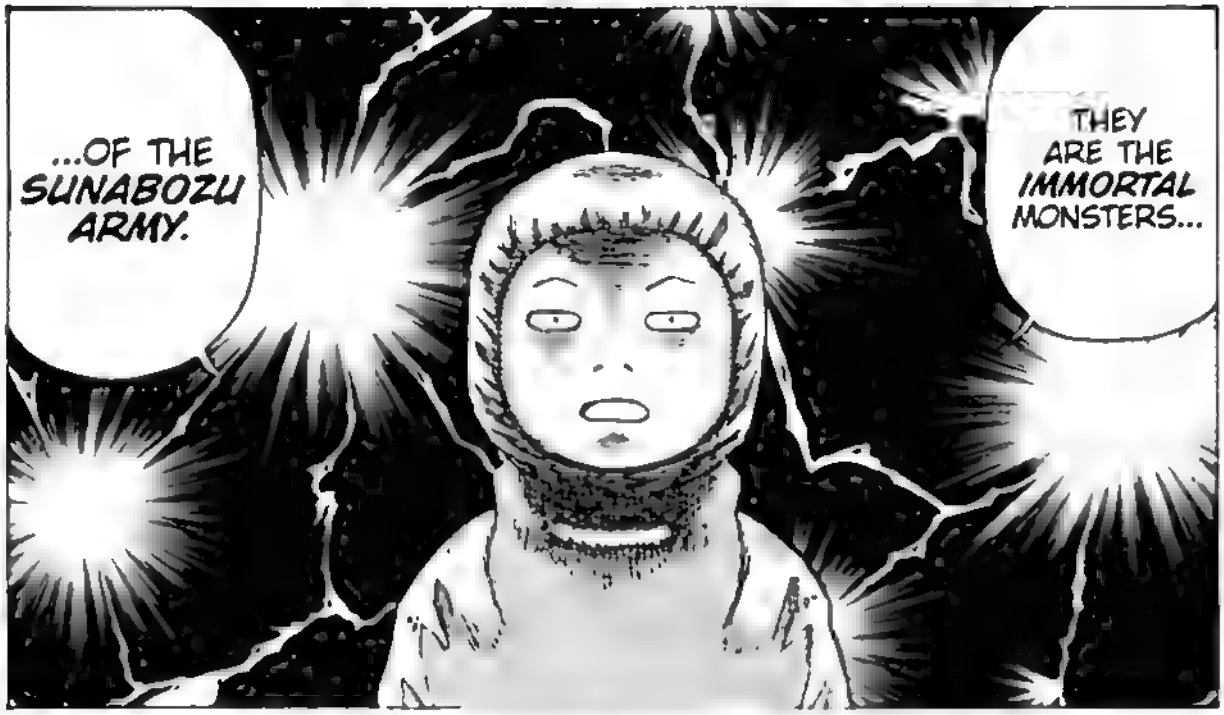

IT'S NOBODY FROM AROUND HERE.
THE SECURITY POLICE?
SOME-BODY WAS HERE!

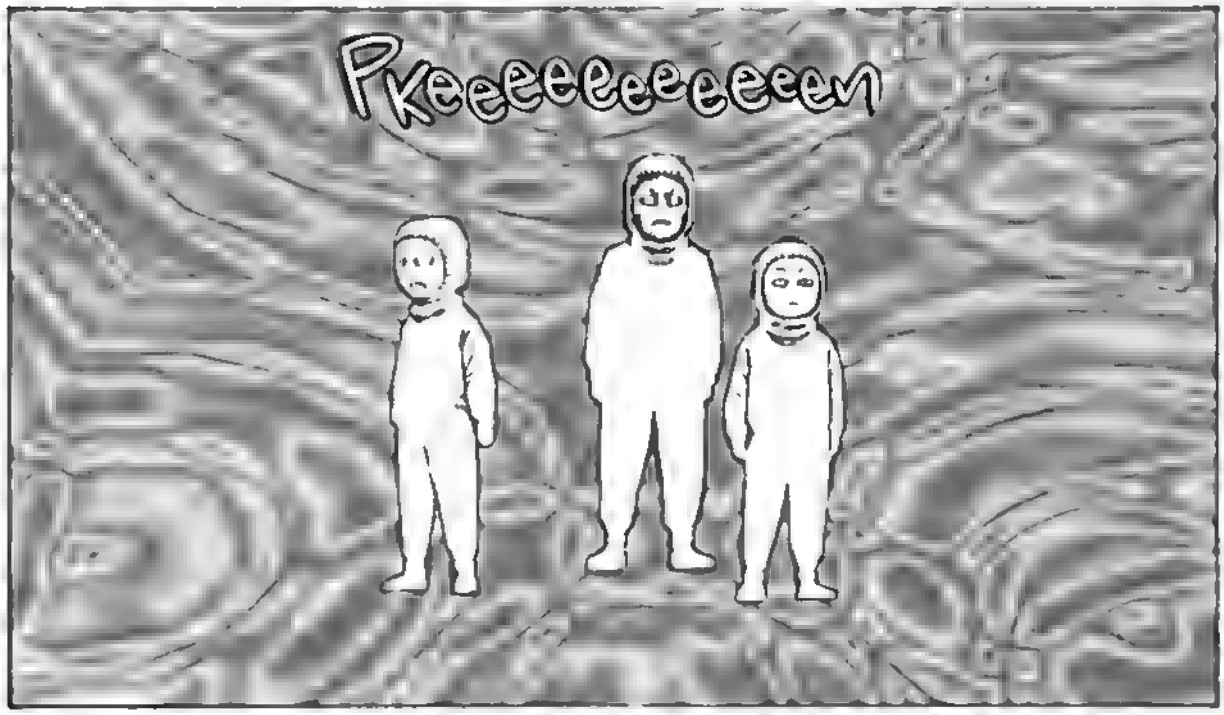

ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT DURING THE HUGE COL-LAPSE?
I THOUGHT IT WAS JUST A DREAM, OR SOME KIND OF HALLUCI-NATION.
BUT THE SMELL HERE SETTLES IT.

THE SCENT IS STILL HERE, CAN YOU SMELL IT?
THAT AWFUL, AWFUL SMELL OF THEIRS.
SMELL?
Doesn't seem to be..
Sniff Sniff


ARE THEY ENE-MIES?
TERRIBLE ENEMIES.


IT'S THEM.
YOU'VE ALSO FOUGHT THEM BEFORE, AKIO.


...OF THE SUNABOZU ARMY.
THEY ARE THE IMMORTAL MONSTERS...


Pkeeeeeeeeeeeen

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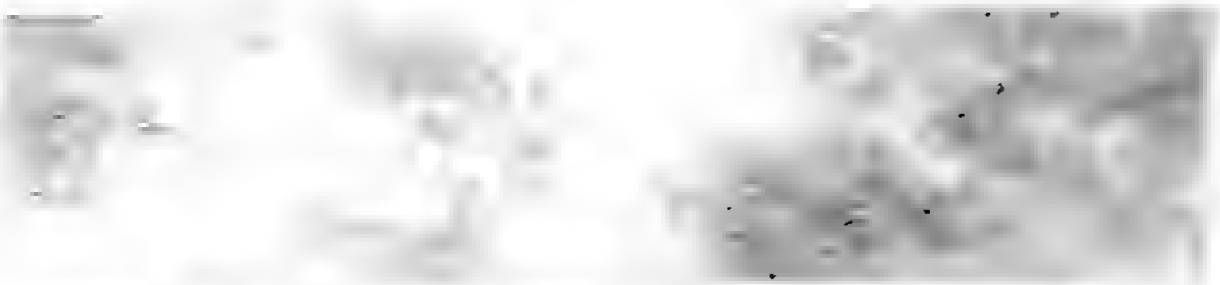
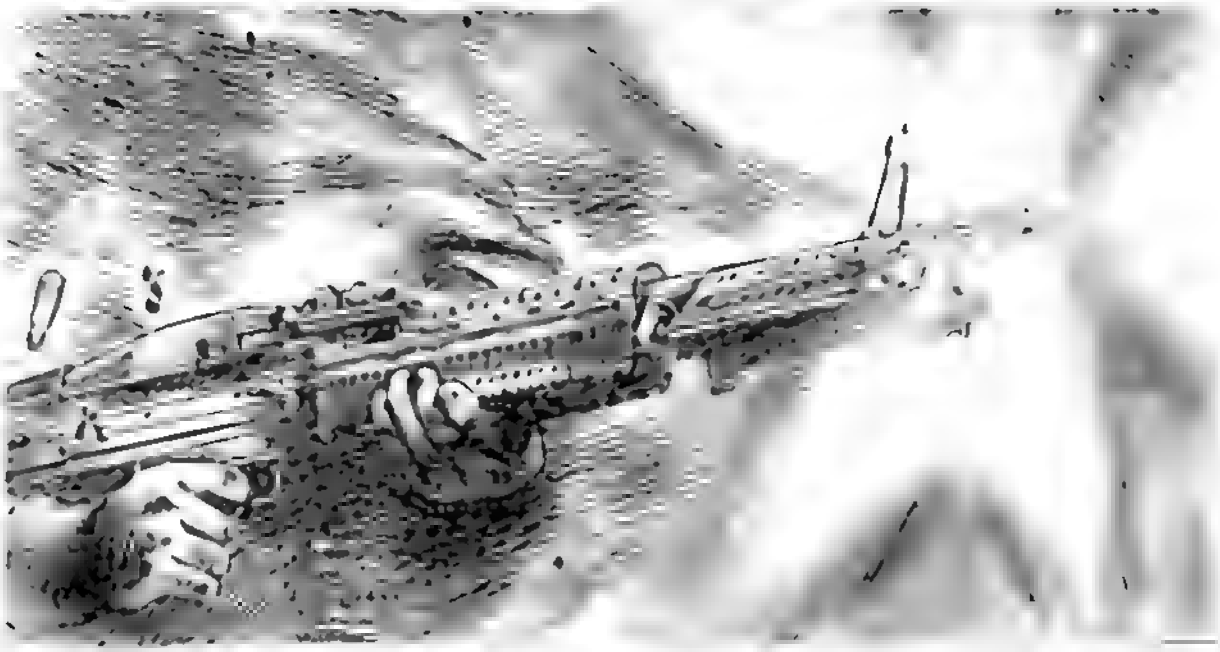
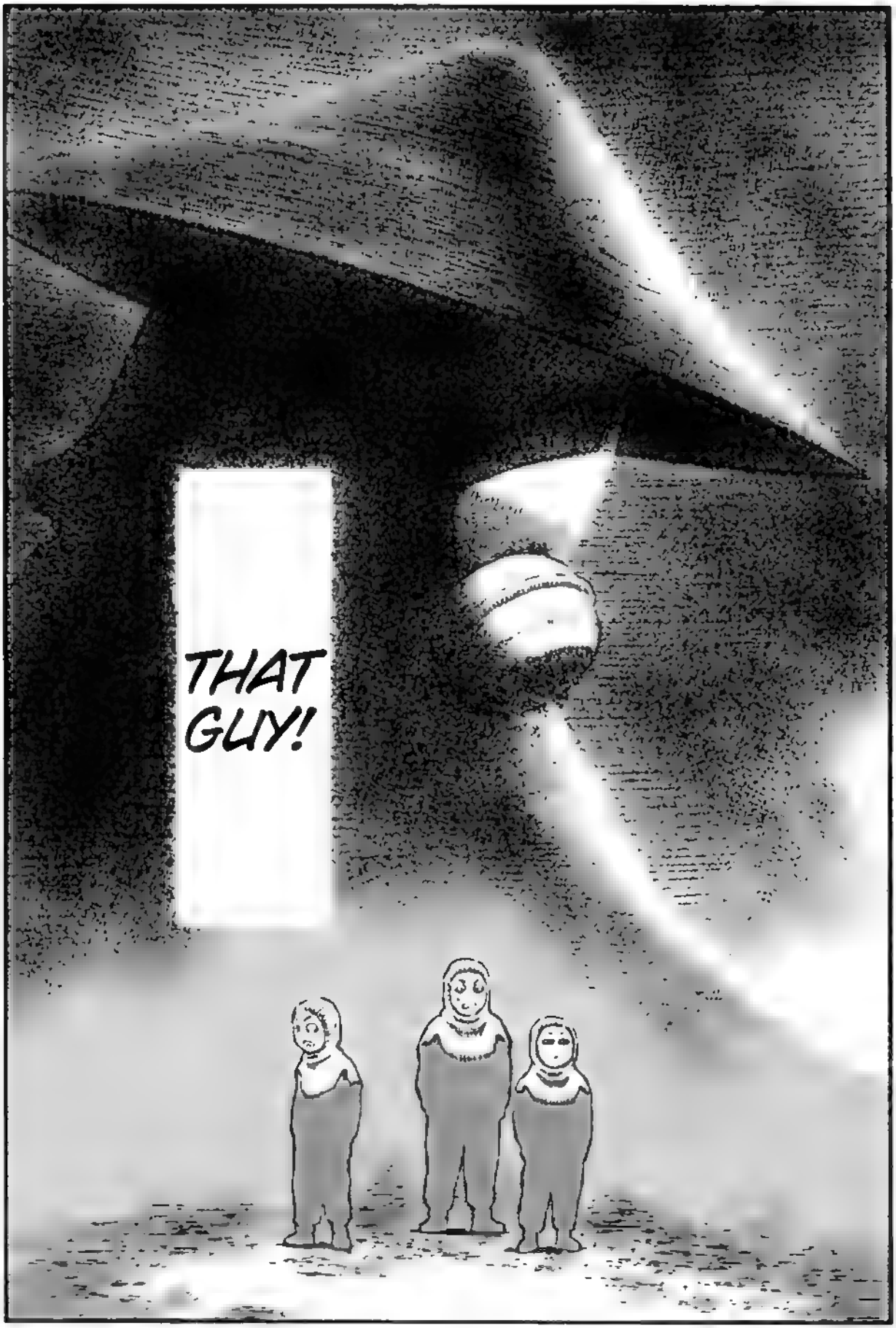
砂ぼうず





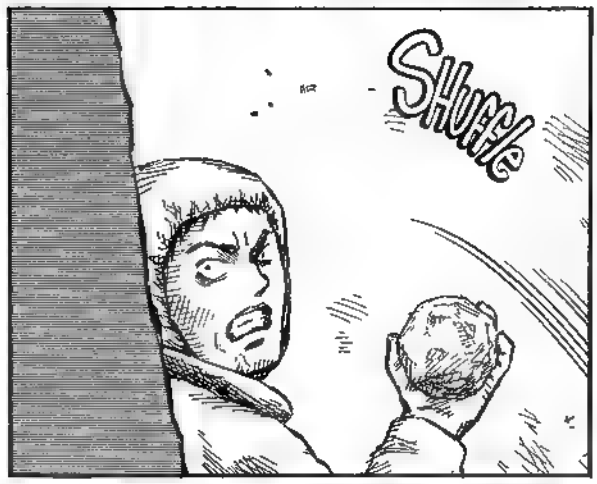
TH-THAT MONSTER FROM BACK THEN...
RIGHT HERE?

Pkeeeeeen
HE...
HE COMES AT LAST...

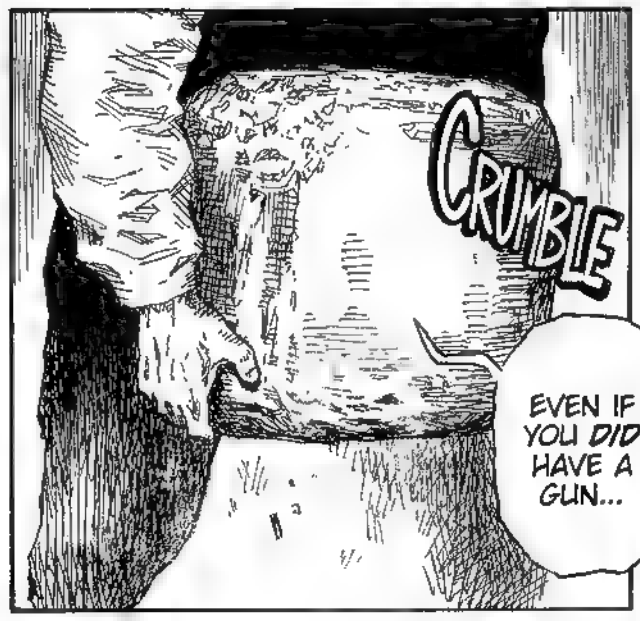

THAT GUY!

HAH!
LEAP

DASH


SHUFFLE

ROLL
ROLL


CRUMBLE
EVEN IF YOU *DID* HAVE A GUN...

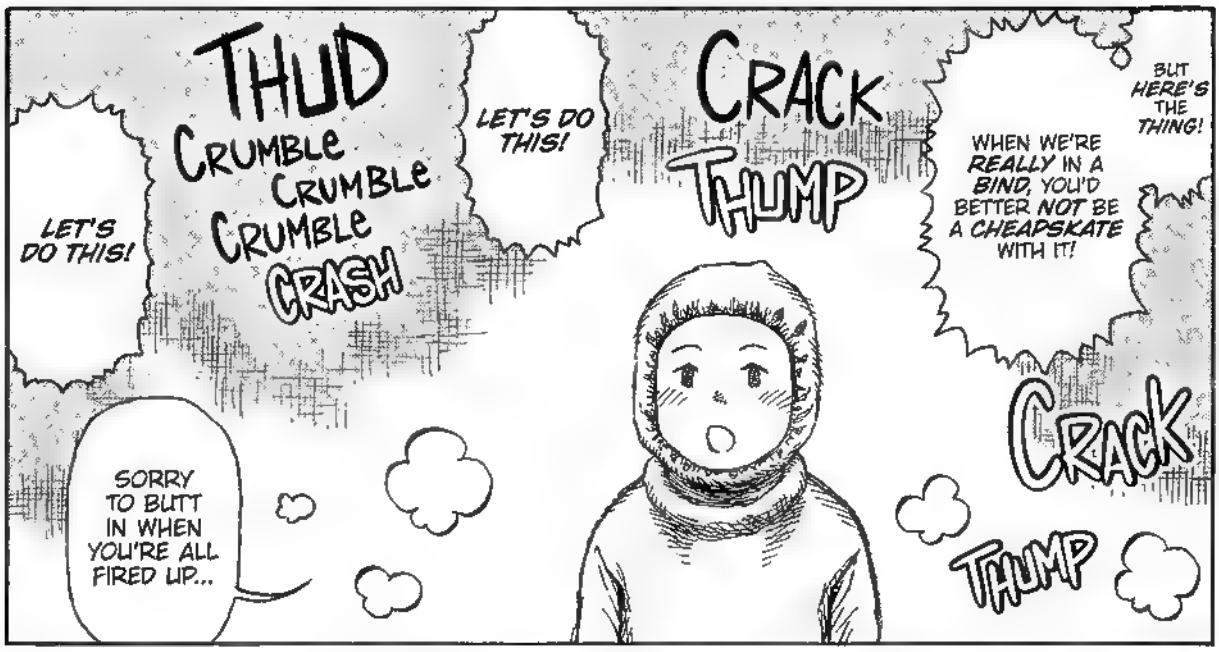
I'M UN-ARMED.
Glance
Glance
THIS IS BAD.
DAMN!
Glance
Glance

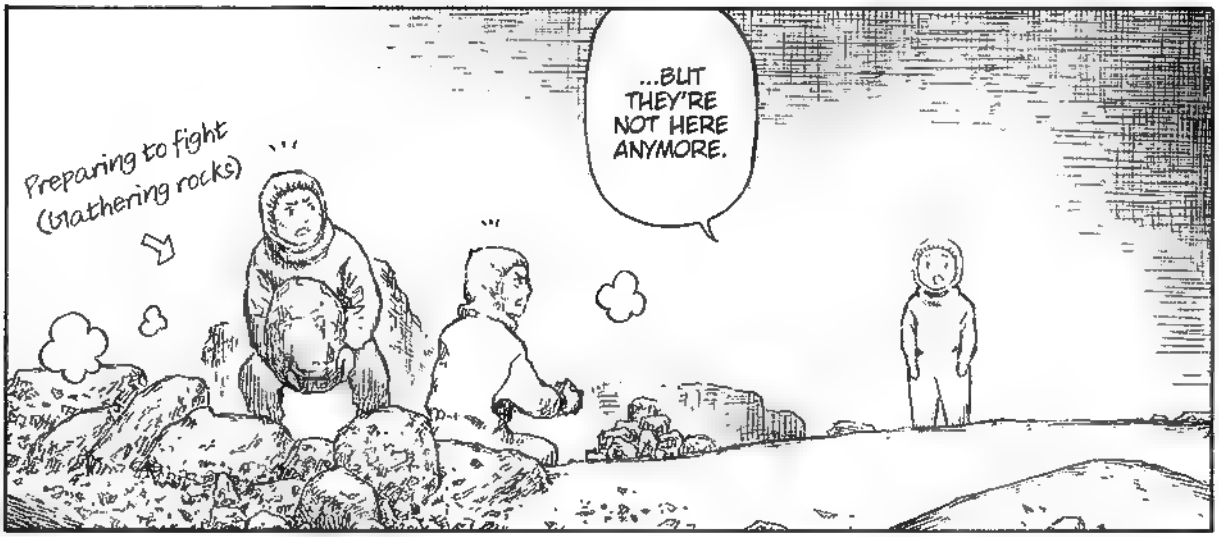
TARO?
Awesome!

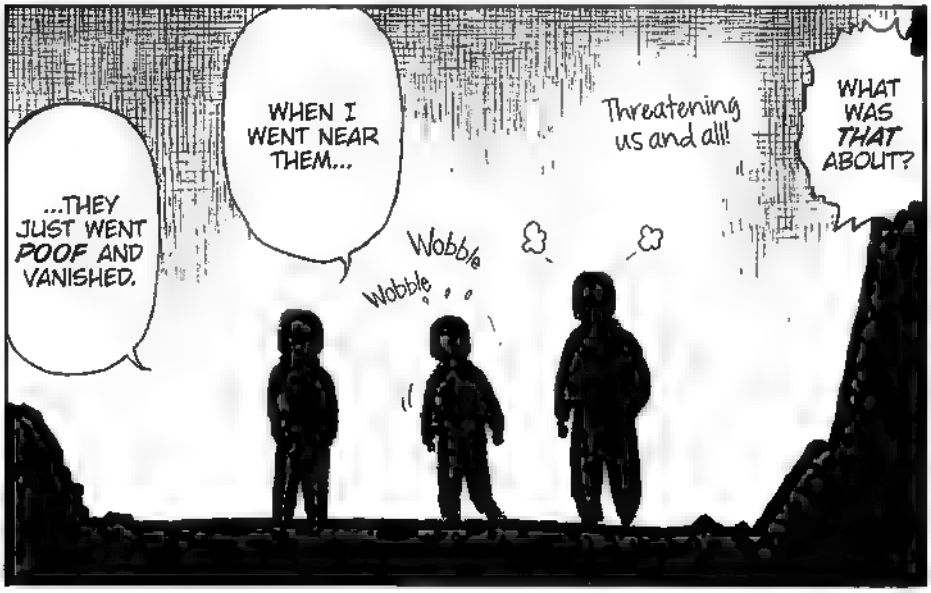
OOH!
SHOCK
...IT WOULDN'T HELP ONE BIT.
NNN

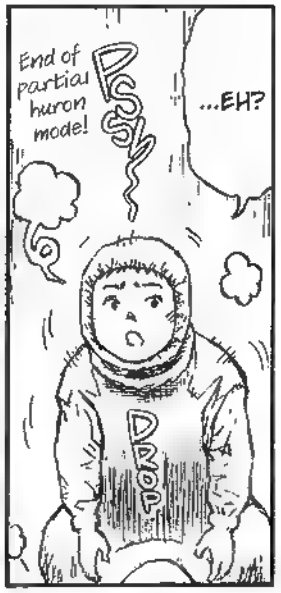
...TO PRACTICE WITH IT SUPPRESSED AT 10%.
IKEMITSU TOLD ME...
I... I WON'T BE AT 100%, BUT...
SO, YOU HURONIFY ONLY A LITTLE BIT, HUH?

HAVE A MONSTER FIGHT A MONSTER!
RI-RIGHT, I SEE!
GRRRRRR


LET'S DO THIS!
THUD
CRUMBLE
CRUMBLE
CRUMBLE
CRASH
LET'S DO THIS!
CRACK
THUMP
WHEN WE'RE REALLY IN A BIND, YOU'D BETTER NOT BE A CHEAPSKATE WITH IT!
BUT HERE'S THE THING!
CRACK
THUMP
SORRY TO BUTT IN WHEN YOU'RE ALL FIRED UP...


Preparing to fight (Gathering rocks)
...BUT THEY'RE NOT HERE ANYMORE.

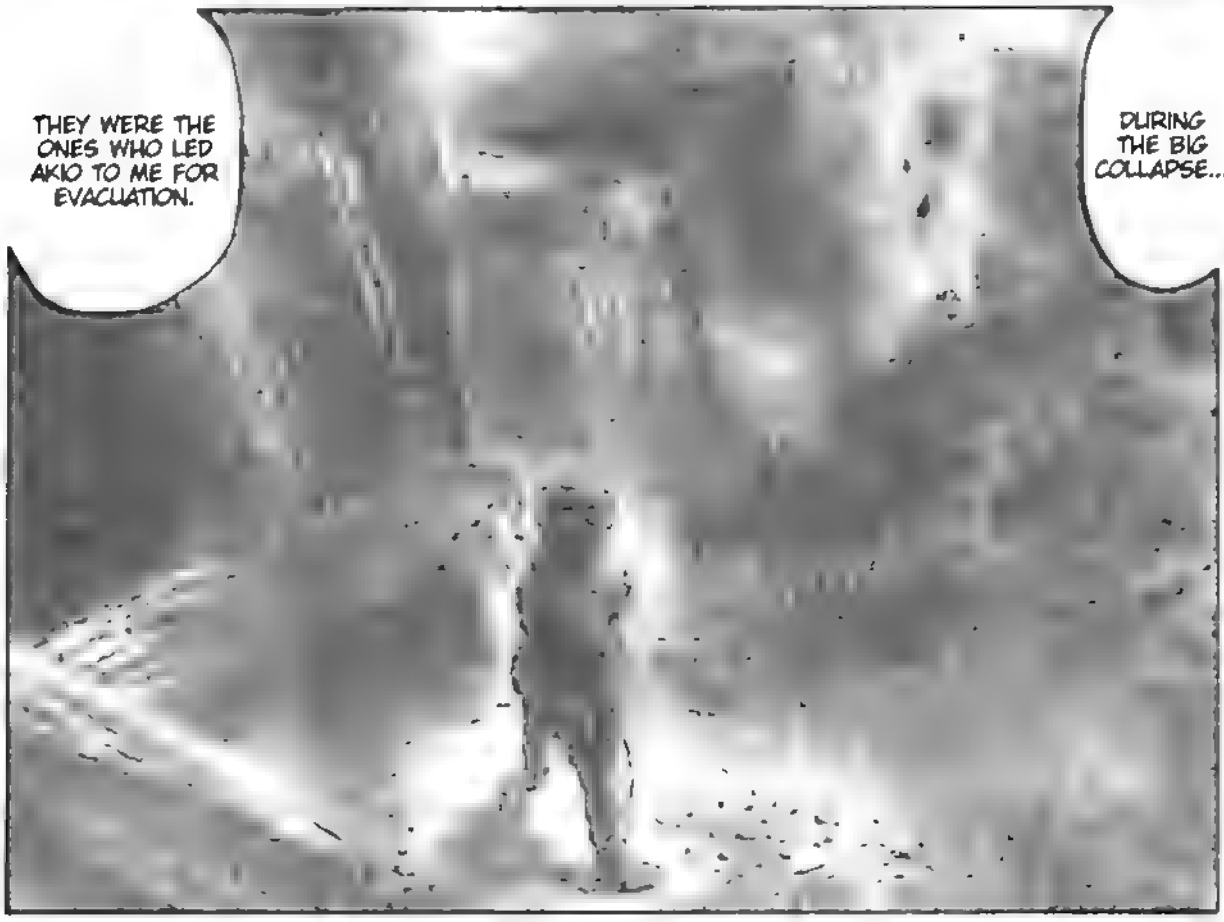

...THEY JUST WENT POOF AND VANISHED.
WHEN I WENT NEAR THEM...
Threatening us and all!
WHAT WAS THAT ABOUT?
Wobble
Wobble

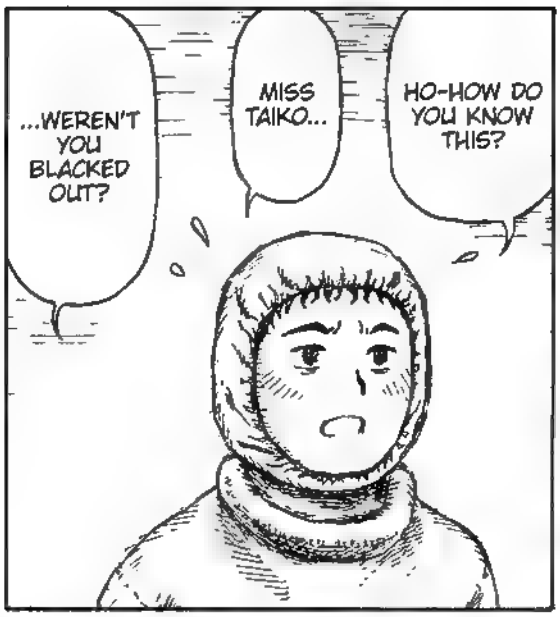

End of partial huron mode!
Psh
...EH?
Drop

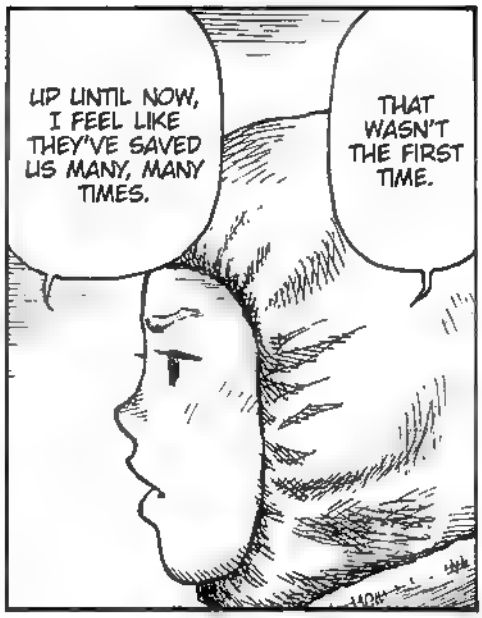
Observing?

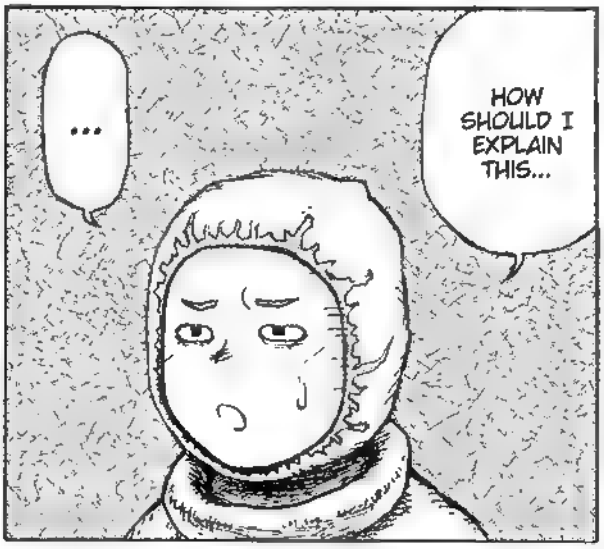
Yup.

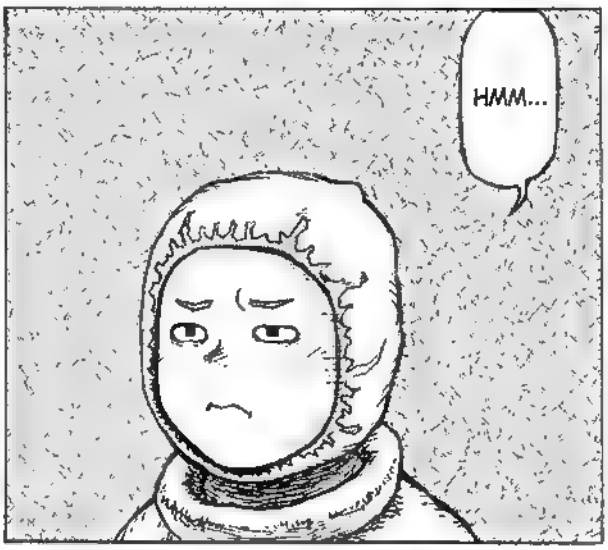
IT SEEMS...
. THEY'VE BEEN OB-SERVING US THE WHOLE TIME.


DURING THE BIG COLLAPSE...
THEY WERE THE ONES WHO LED AKIO TO ME FOR EVACUATION.


...WEREN'T YOU BLACKED OUT?
MISS TAIKO...
HO-HOW DO YOU KNOW THIS?

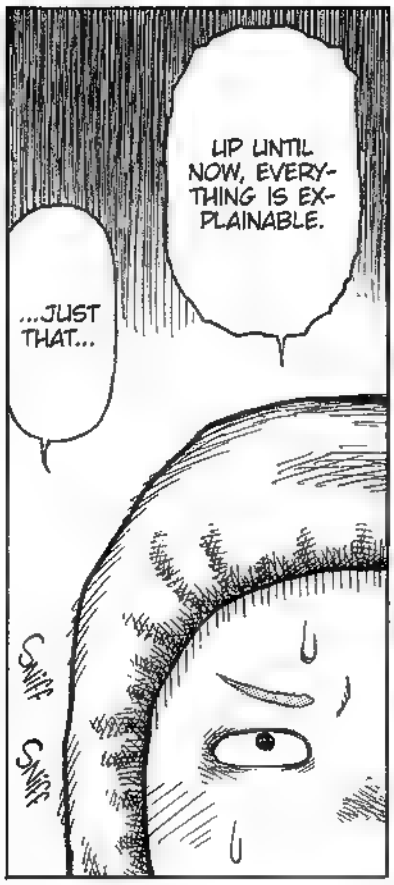

UP UNTIL NOW, I FEEL LIKE THEY'VE SAVED US MANY, MANY TIMES.
THAT WASN'T THE FIRST TIME.


...
HOW SHOULD I EXPLAIN THIS...

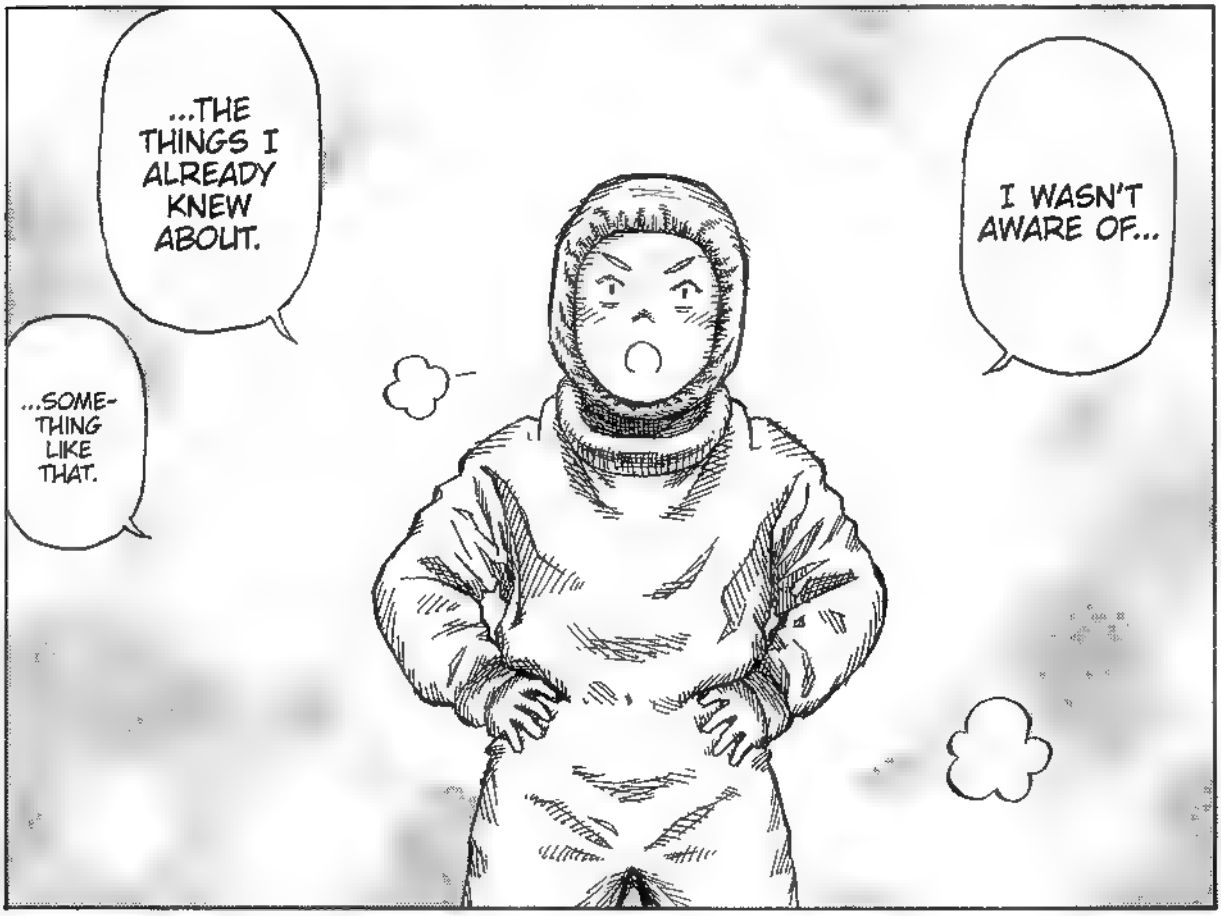

HMM...

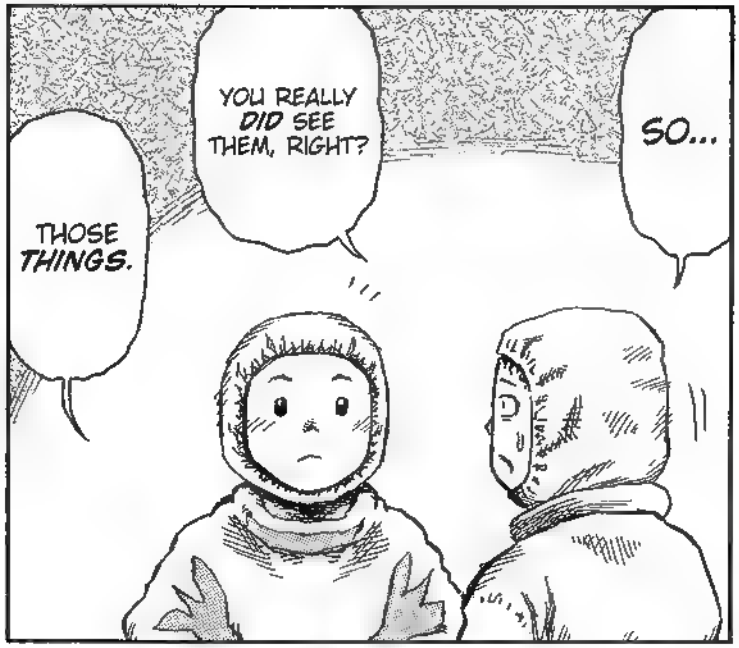
...SO YOU MAKE UP STORIES TO FIT THE BILL.
SOME UNEXPLAINABLE THING HAPPENS AND YOU TRY TO DESCRIBE IT ONE WAY OR ANOTHER...
AND YOU END UP ACCEPTING YOUR MAKE-BELIEVE AS THE TRUTH, OR WHATEVER.

FALSE MEMORIES.
MEMORIES MADE UP AFTER THE FACT OR SOMETHING.
COULDN'T THIS BE WHAT SOMEBODY WAS SAYING THE OTHER DAY?

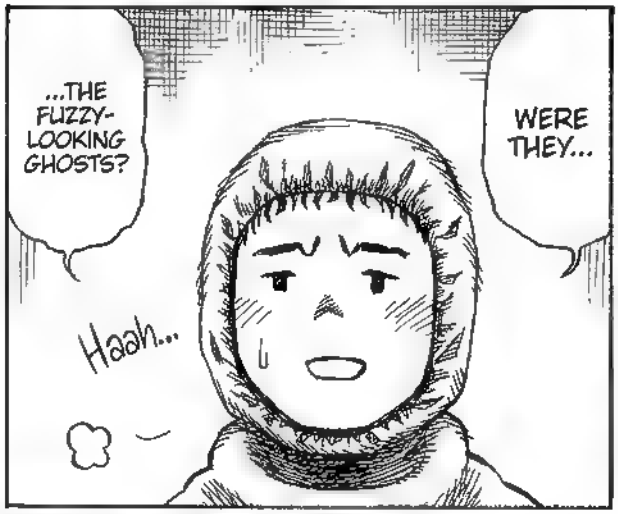
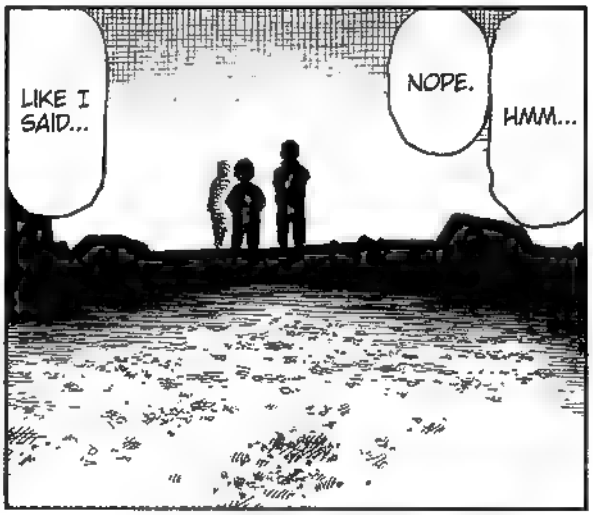
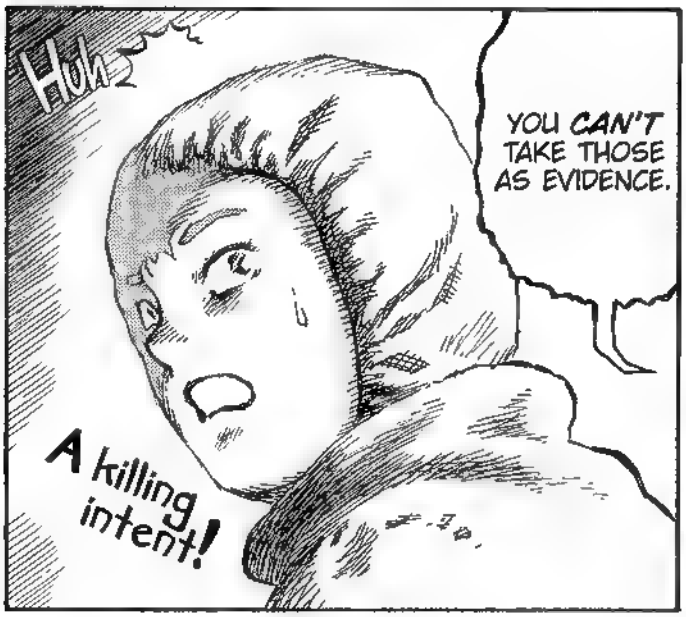
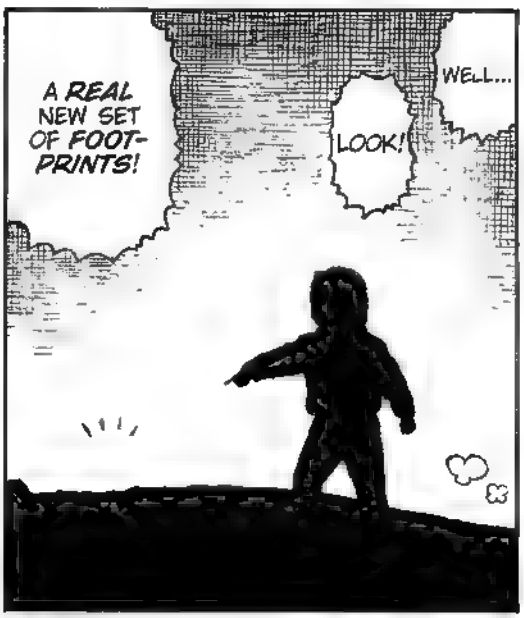

UP UNTIL NOW, EVERYTHING IS EXPLAINABLE.
...JUST THAT...
SNIFF SNIFF

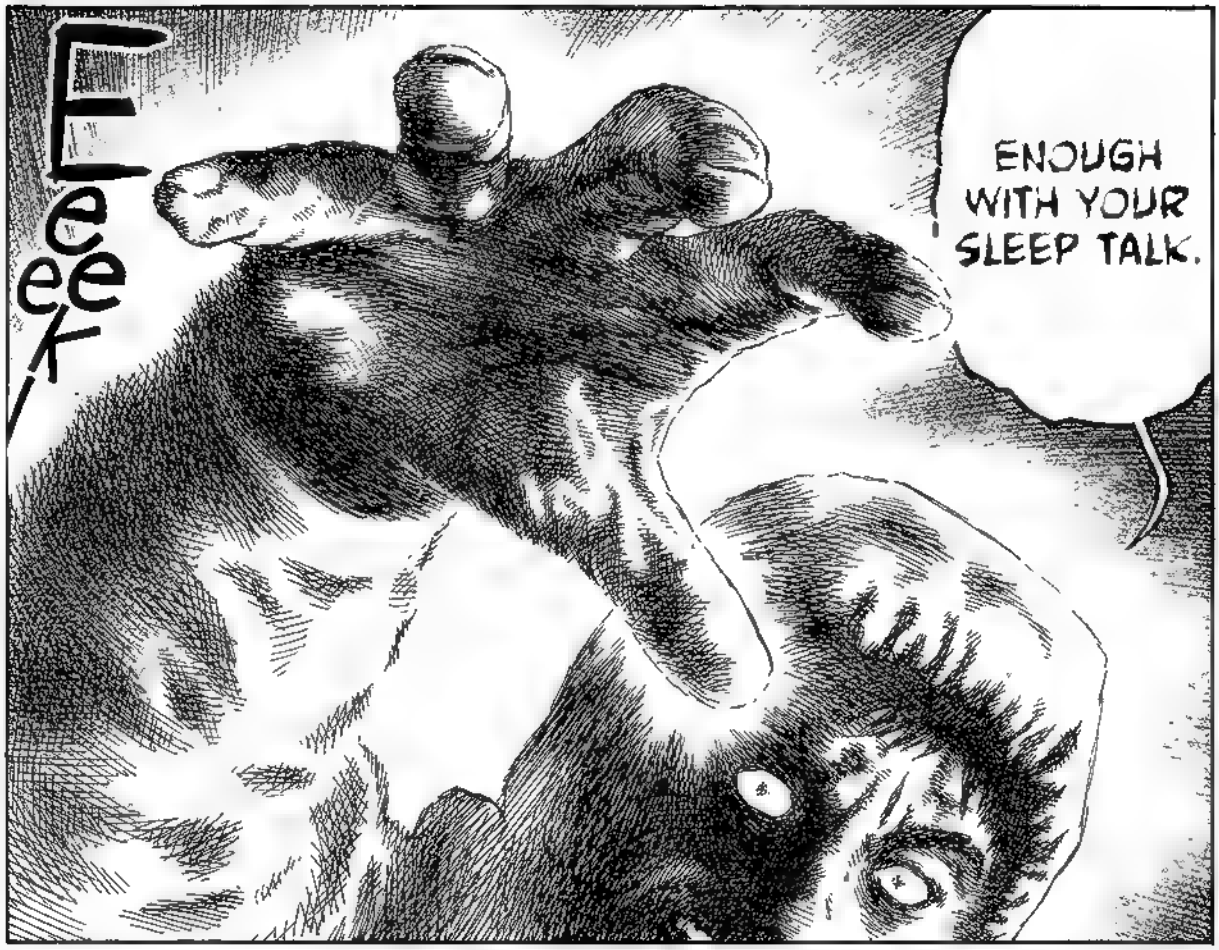
THAT'S NOT IT!
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT!
IT'S THE TRUTH!

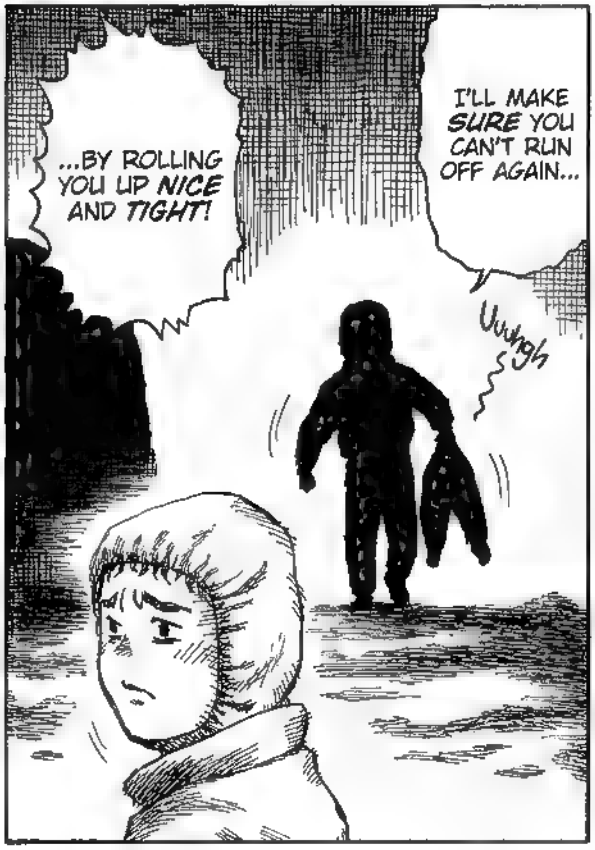

...THE THINGS I ALREADY KNEW ABOUT.
...SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
I WASN'T AWARE OF...


YOU REALLY DID SEE THEM, RIGHT?
SO...
THOSE THINGS.

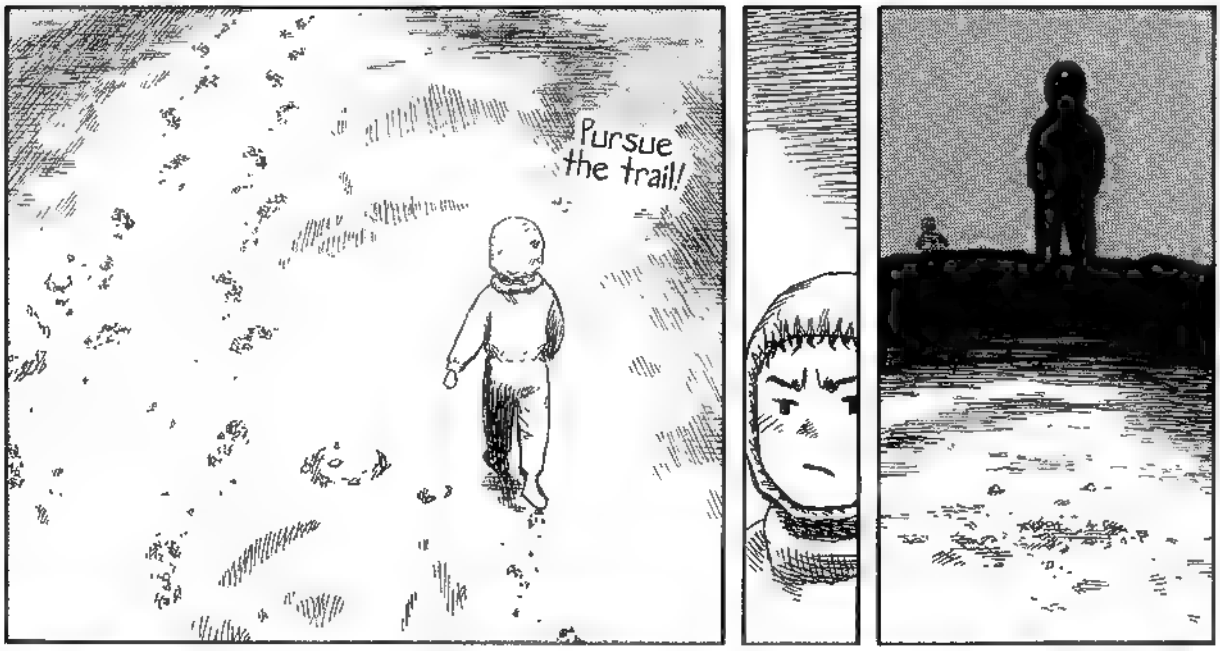
Aah...
She saying weird things again..


...THE FUZZY-LOOKING GHOSTS?
WERE THEY...
Haah...

LIKE I SAID...
NOPE.
HMM...

Huh
YOU CAN'T TAKE THOSE AS EVIDENCE.
A killing intent!

A REAL NEW SET OF FOOT-PRINTS!
LOOK!
WELL...

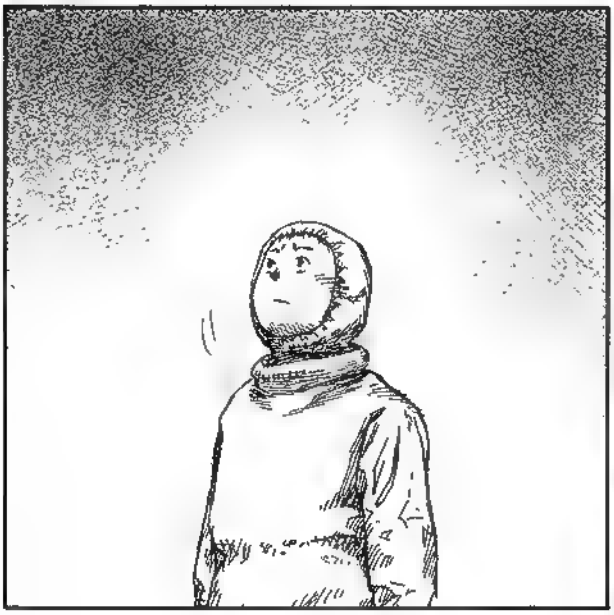

Feet
ENOUGH WITH YOUR SLEEP TALK.

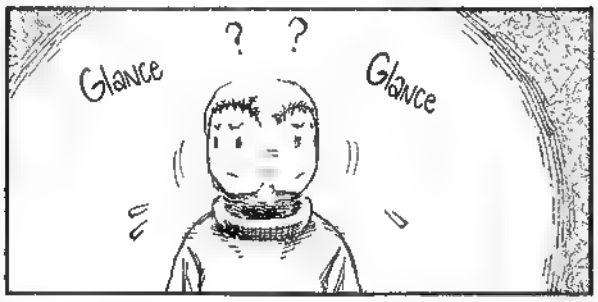

...BY ROLLING YOU UP NICE AND TIGHT!
I'LL MAKE SURE YOU CAN'T RUN OFF AGAIN...
Uuuhgh

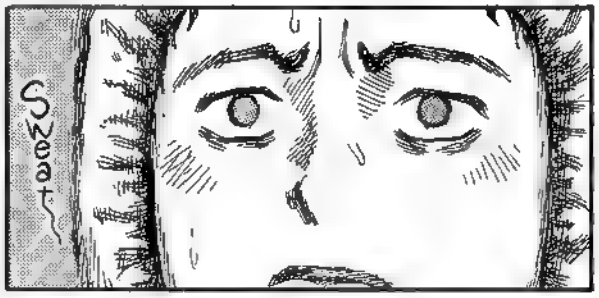
THINK ABOUT IT FOR A SEC.
YANK
THERE'S NO WAY THOSE GUYS WOULD COME HERE TO DO NOTHING BUT SPY ON US.
Aaagh Noooooo


Pursue the trail!

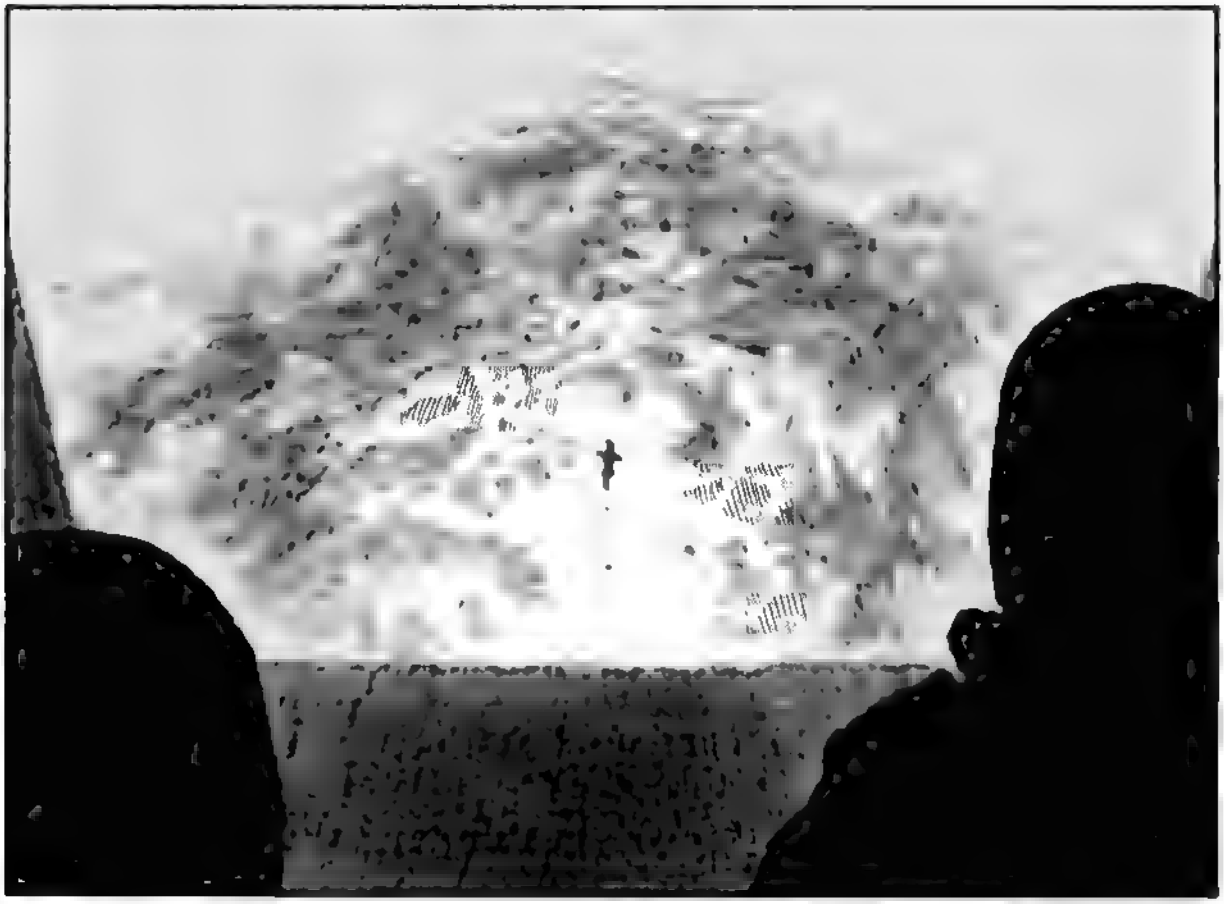
Suddenly!

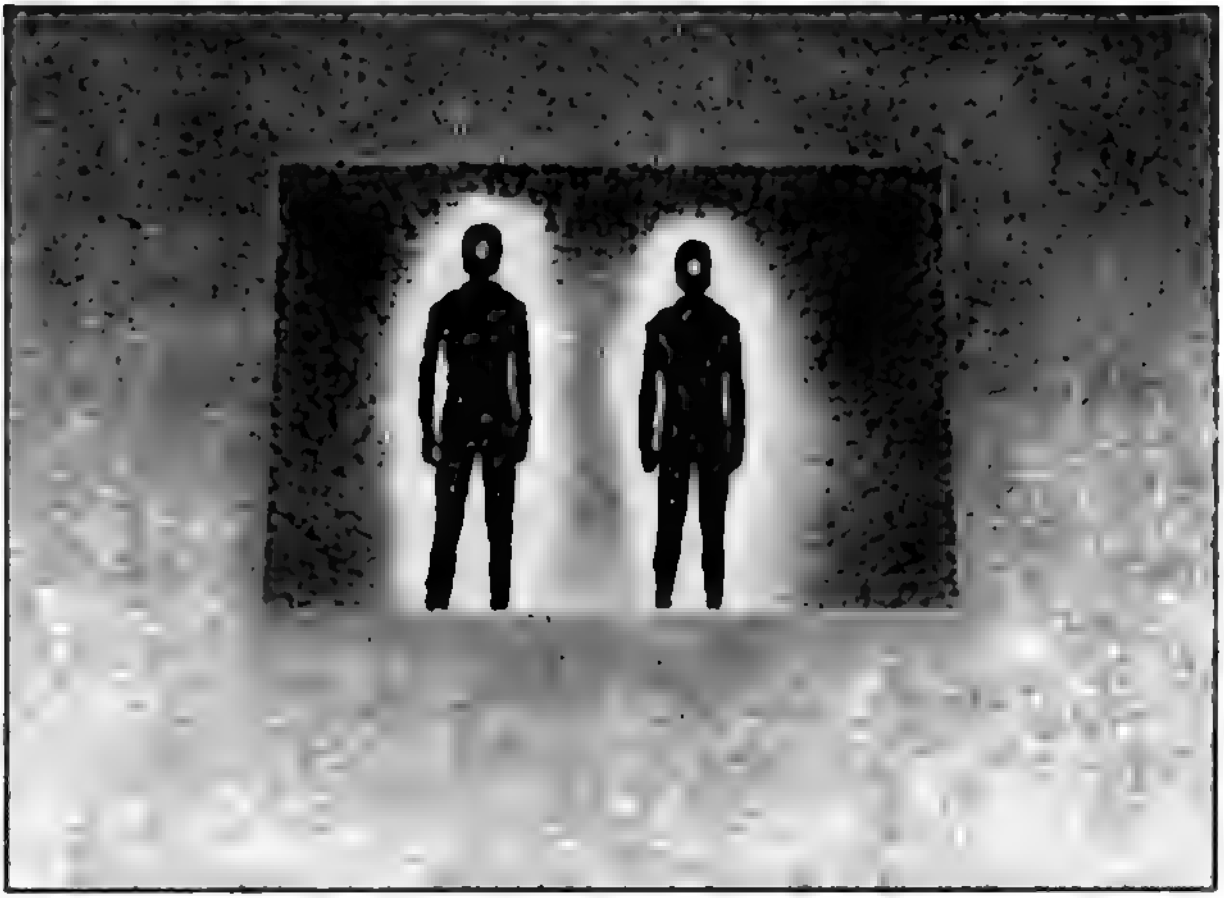


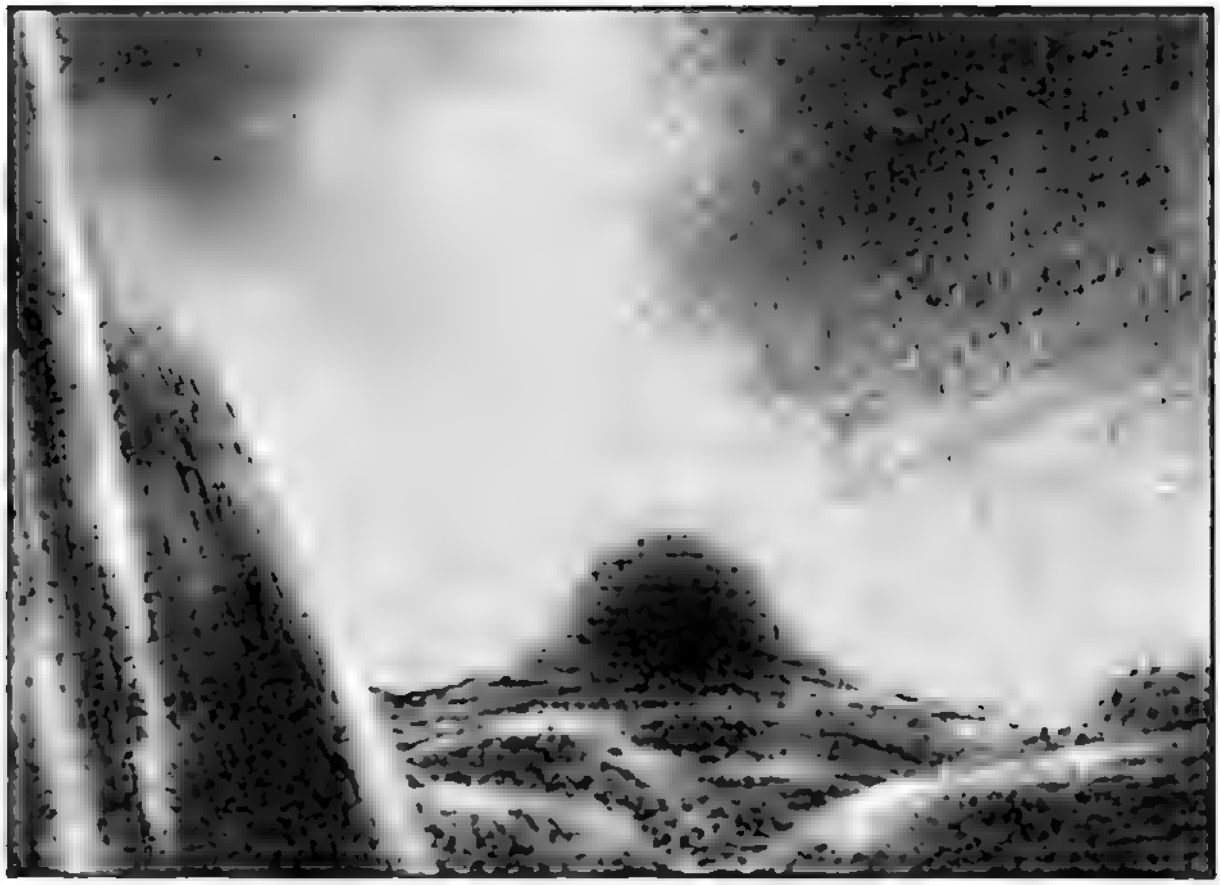

Glance
? ?
Glance

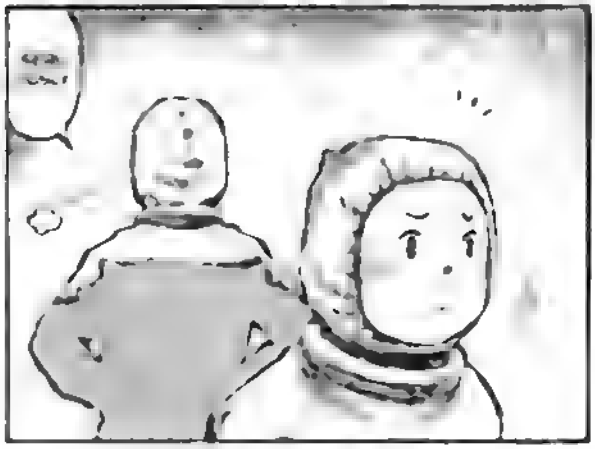

Sweat

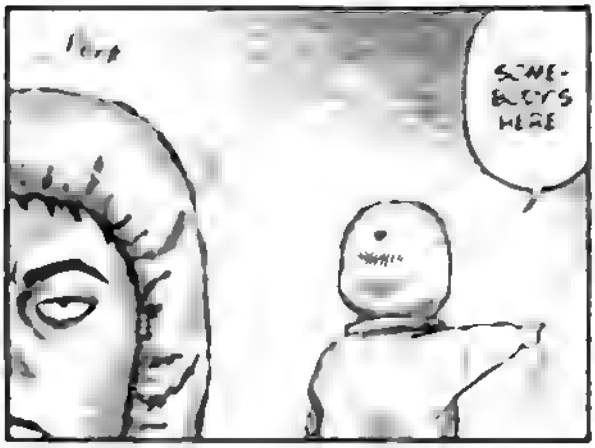
Dash









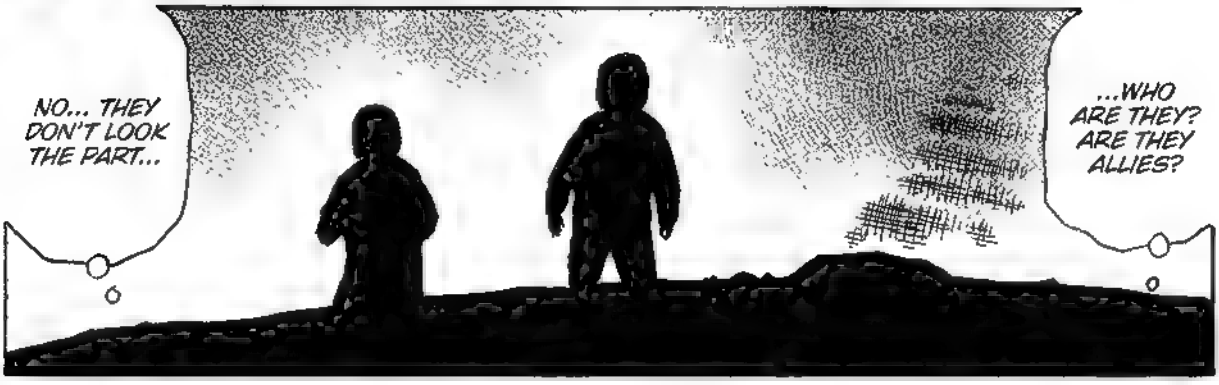

SOME-BODY'S HERE

WHAT THE HELL IS

hide

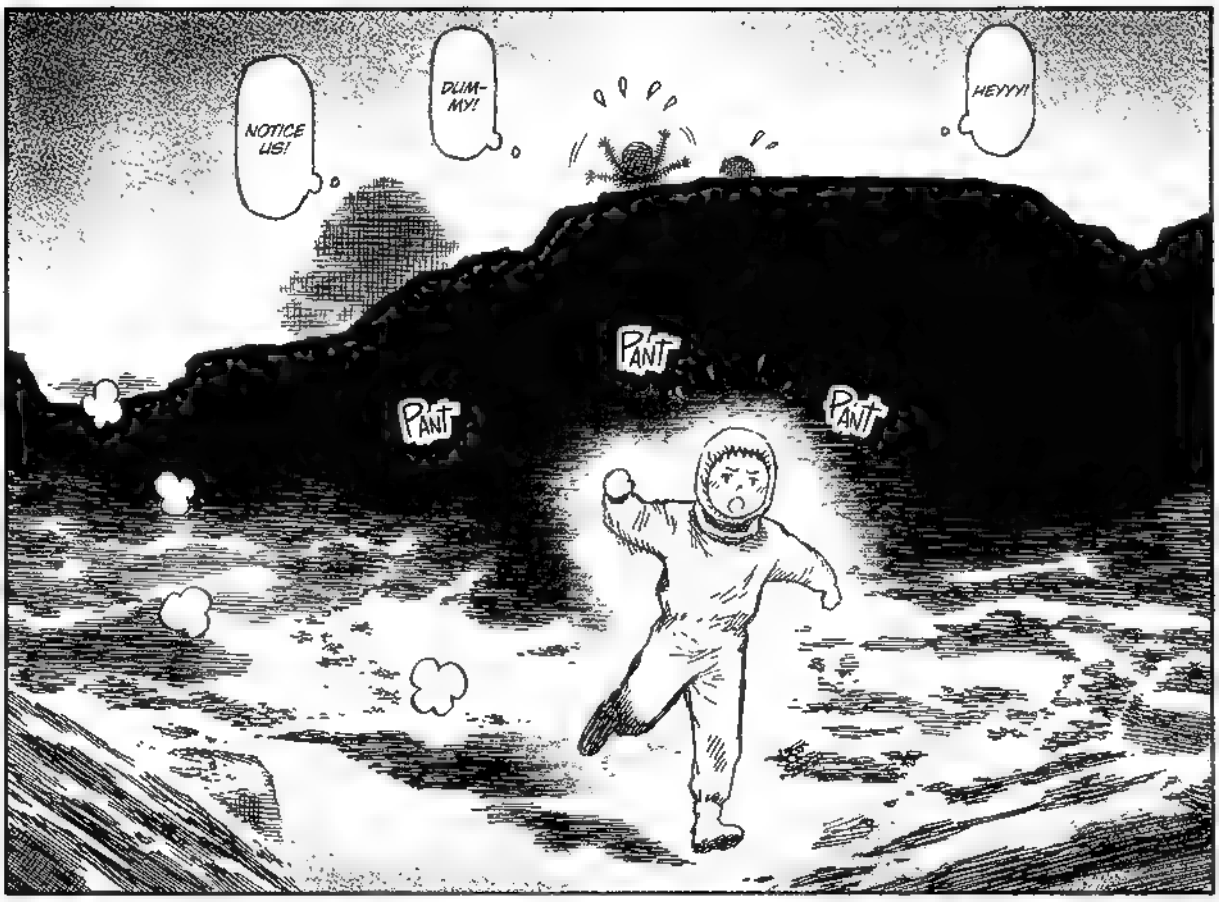
ANO-
THER
GHO--
You still on about that?
GRR
RRR-
GH...

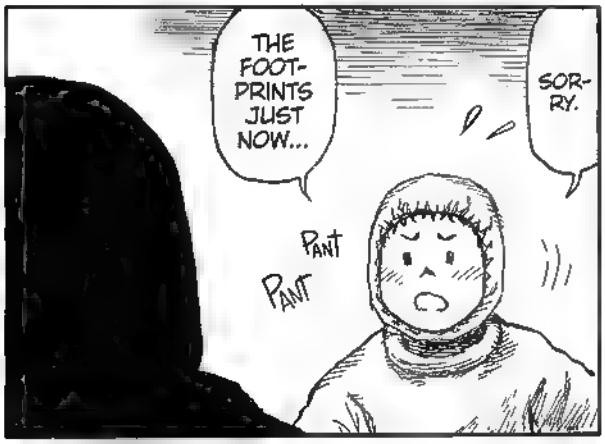
SHOCK

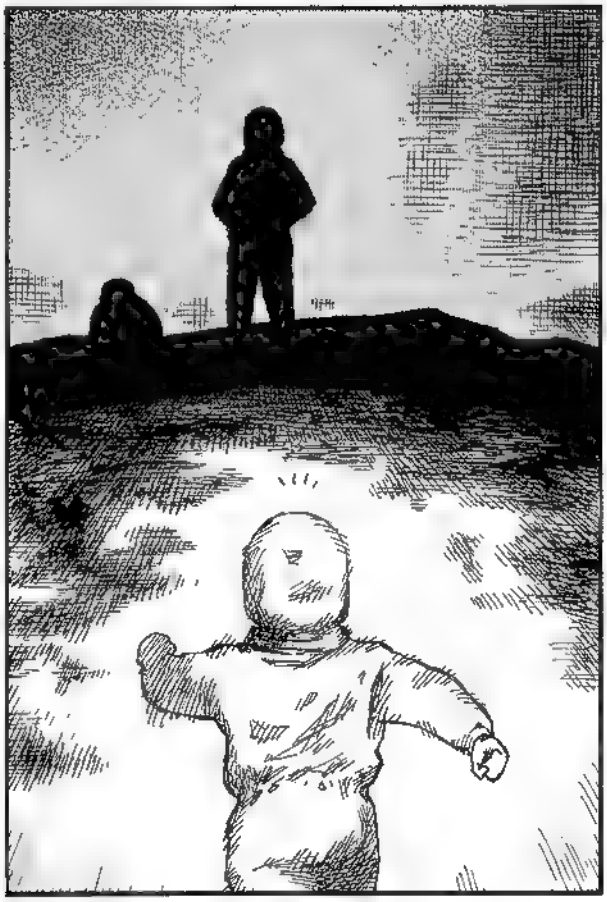

NO... THEY DON'T LOOK THE PART...
...WHO ARE THEY? ARE THEY ALLIES?

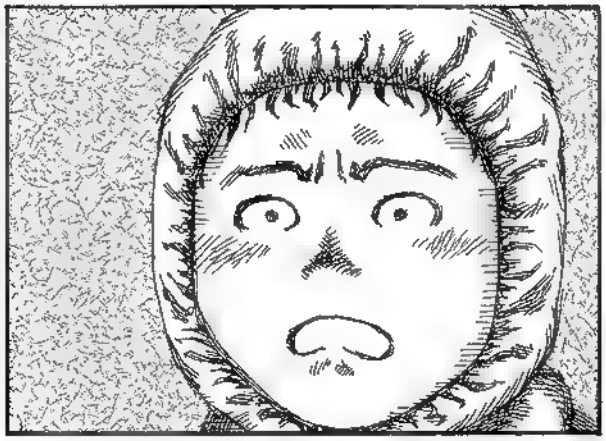
STEP
STEP
STEP

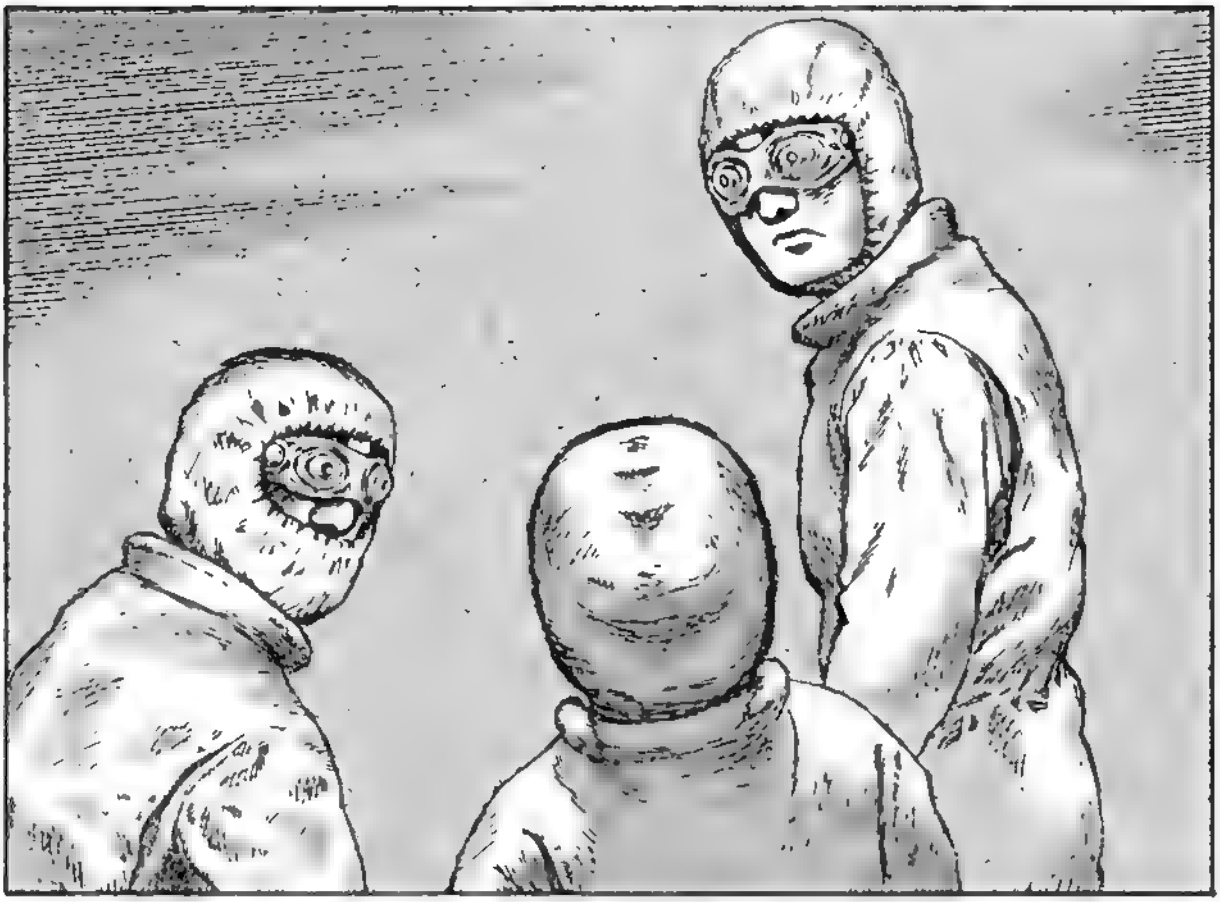
THIS IS BAD.
Friend? Foe?
...AH.

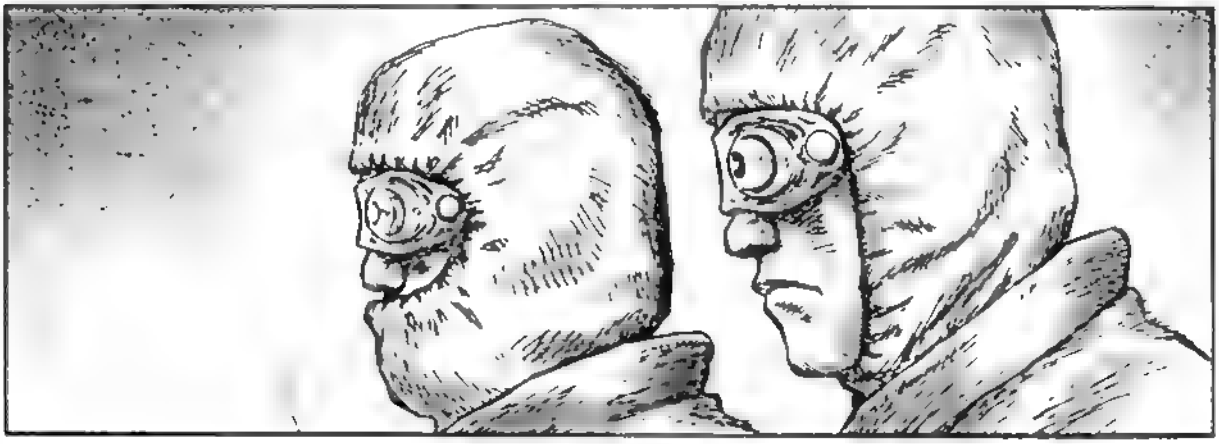

NOTICE US!
DUM-MY!
HEYYY!
PANT
PANT
PANT


THE FOOT-PRINTS JUST NOW...
SOR-RY.
PANT
PANT









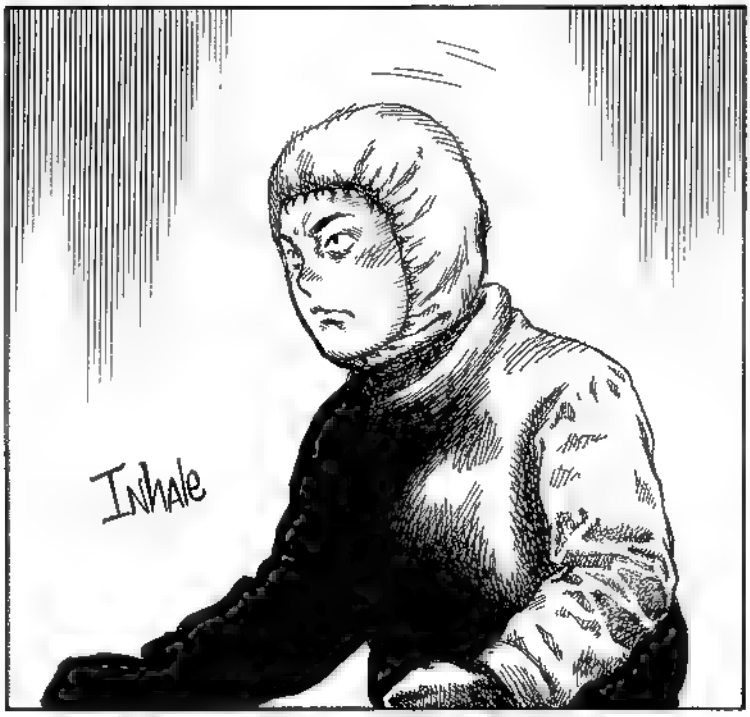
AH.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
WHAT'S WITH YOU?
HUH?
UH...

ARMY BOOTS!

THE SECURITY POLICE!!!

THEY ARE NOT CIVILIANS.
Their aura.
The way they stand.
THESE GUYS ARE WEARING THE VILLAGE-SUPPLIED CLOTHES.


Inhale

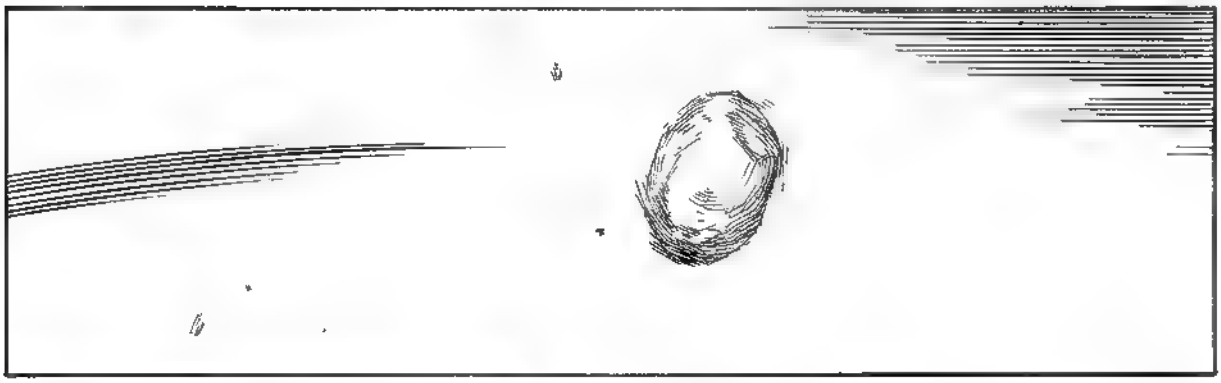
Clench

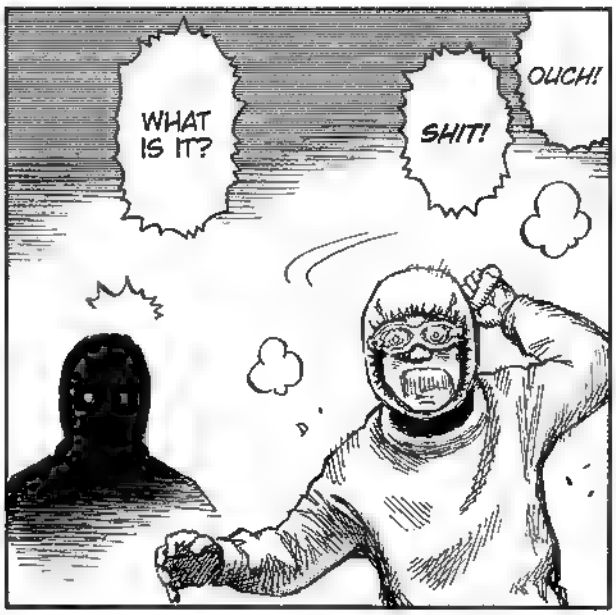
IDIO...
Stone →

YOU'RE NOT FROM THE VILLAGE.

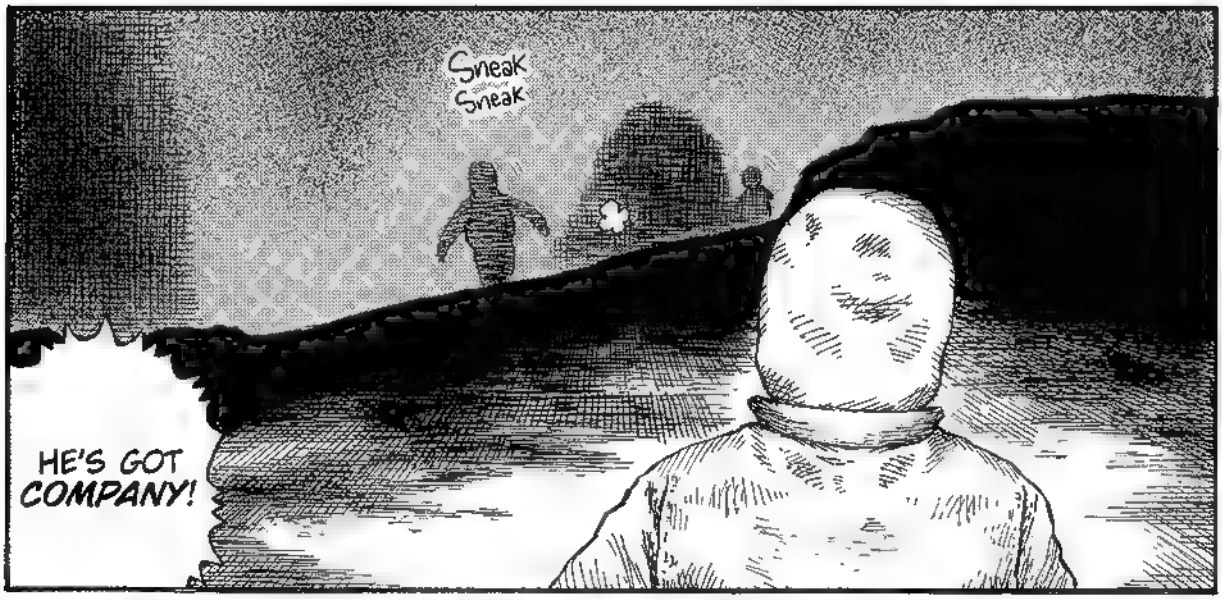
YOU.
GACHA

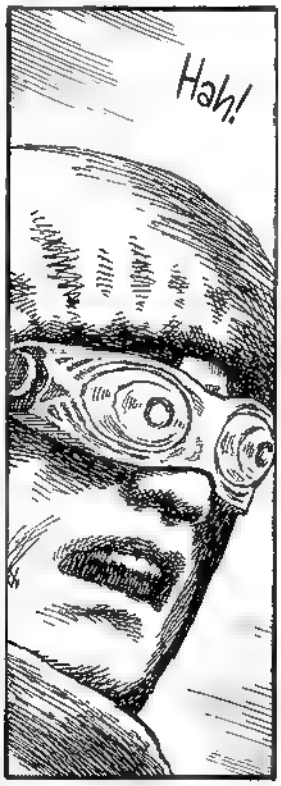
SEIZE HIM!
VERY SUSPICIOUS!
Uuh...
THIS GUY'S FOR REAL!



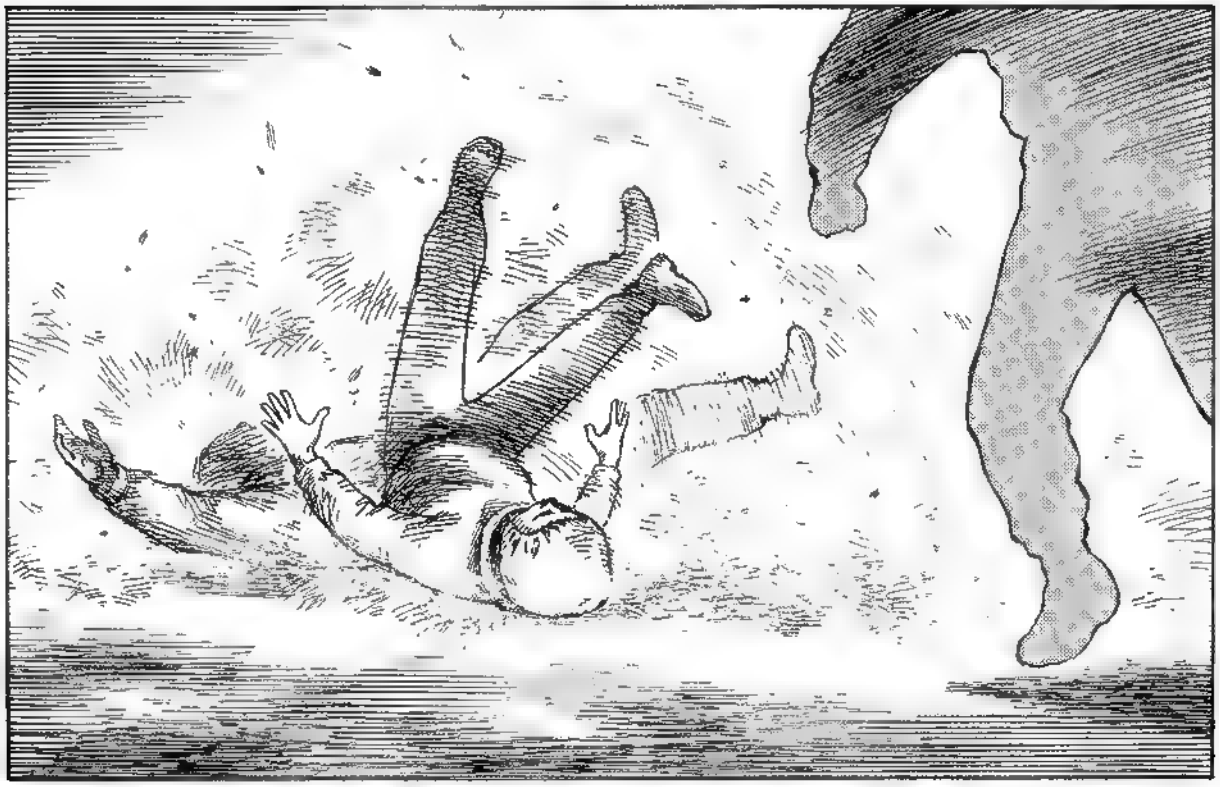

WHAT IS IT?
SHIT!
OUCH!

WHACK

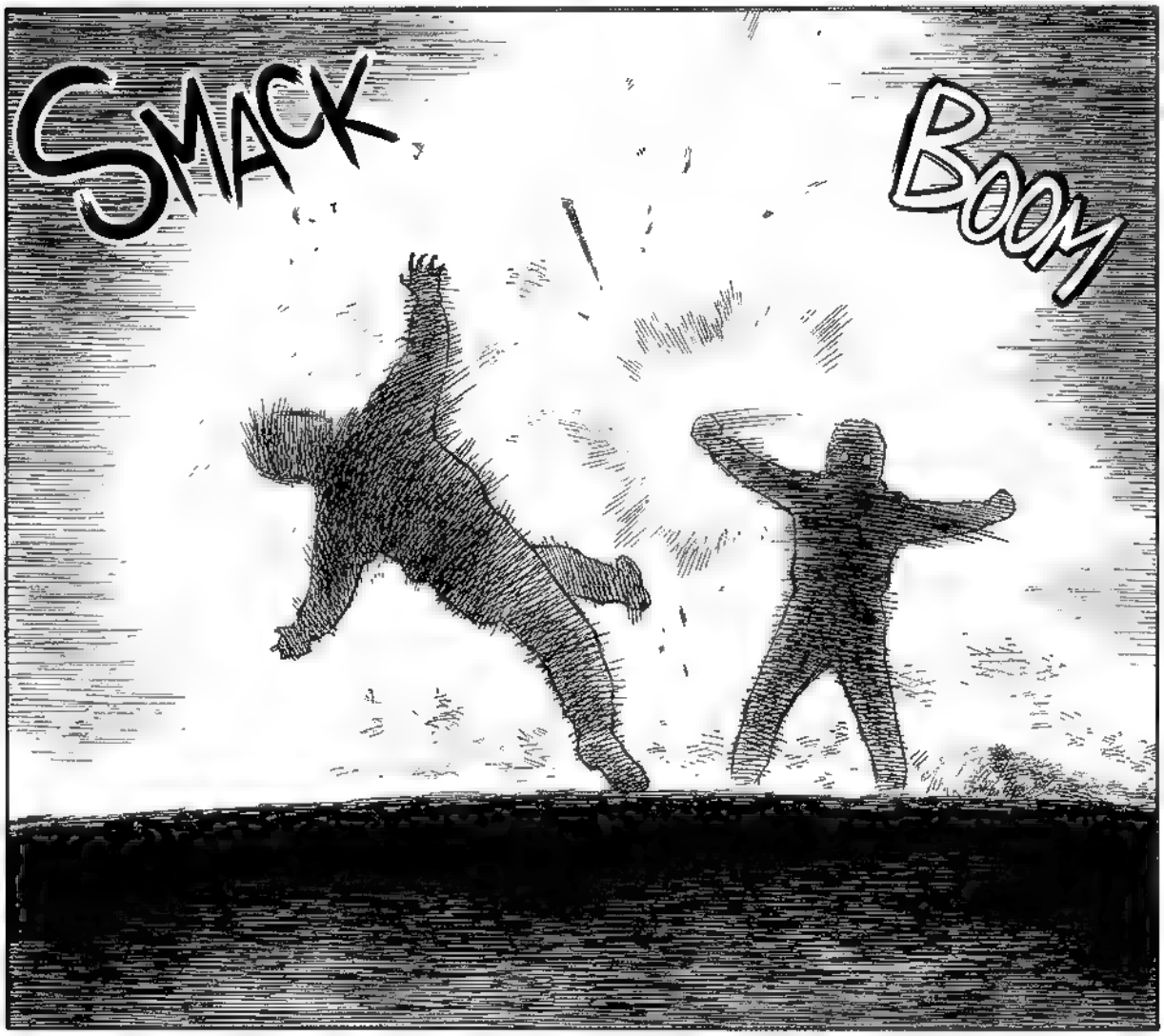

Sneak
Sneak
HE'S GOT COMPANY!

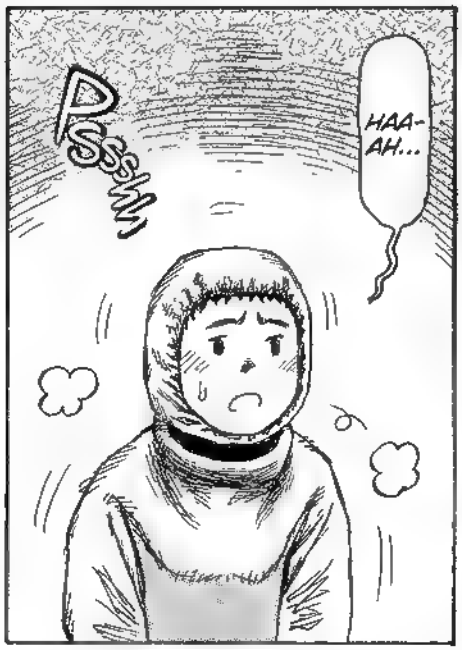

Hah!

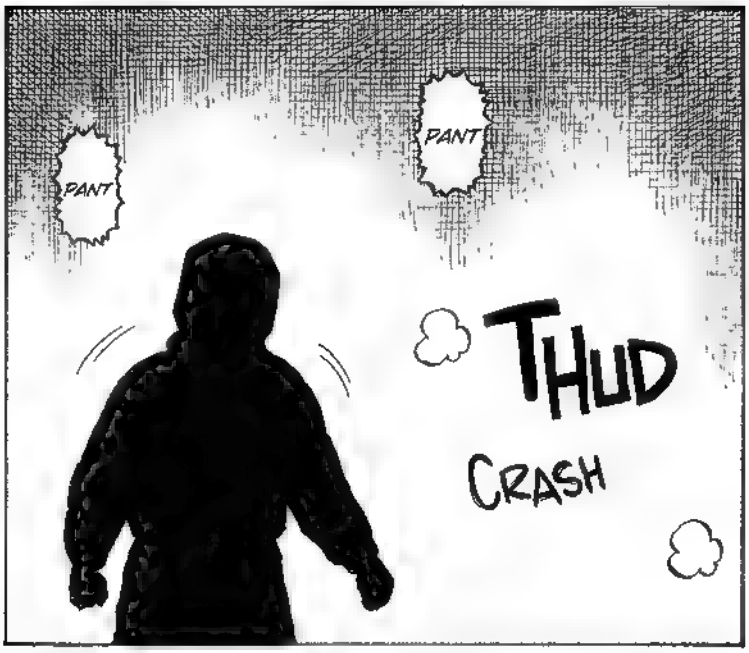
SMASH

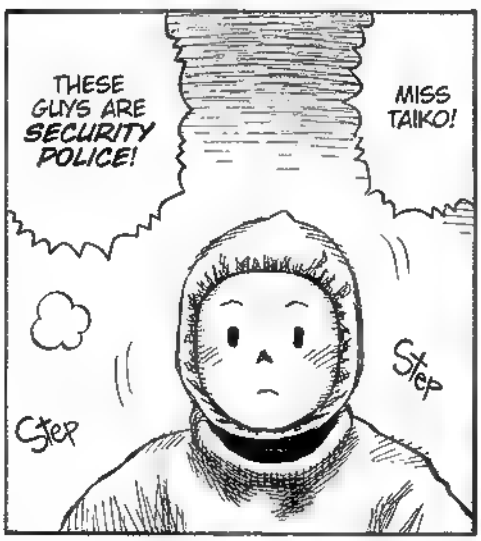


BAS-
TARD!
Wobble

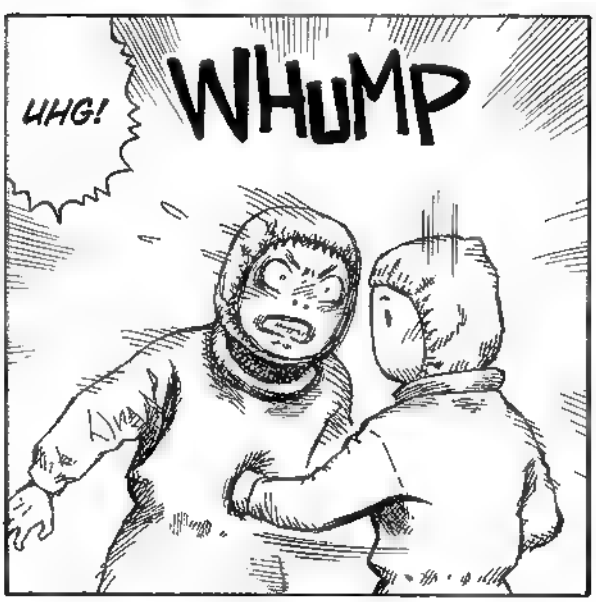

SMACK
BOOM

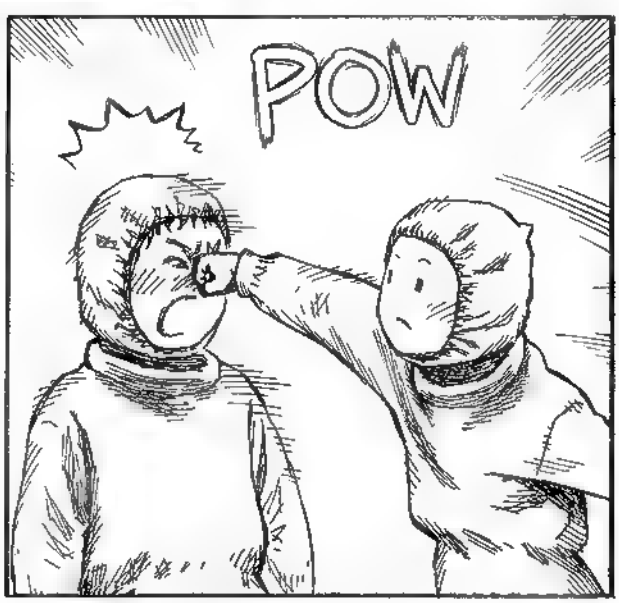

PSSSH
HAA-AH...

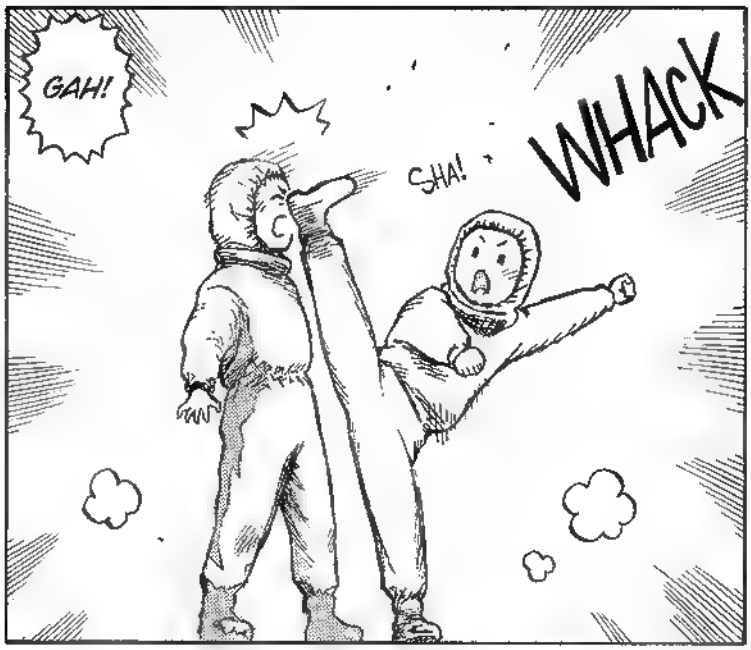

PANT
PANT
THUD
CRASH


THESE GUYS ARE SECURITY POLICE!
MISS TAIKO!
Step
Step

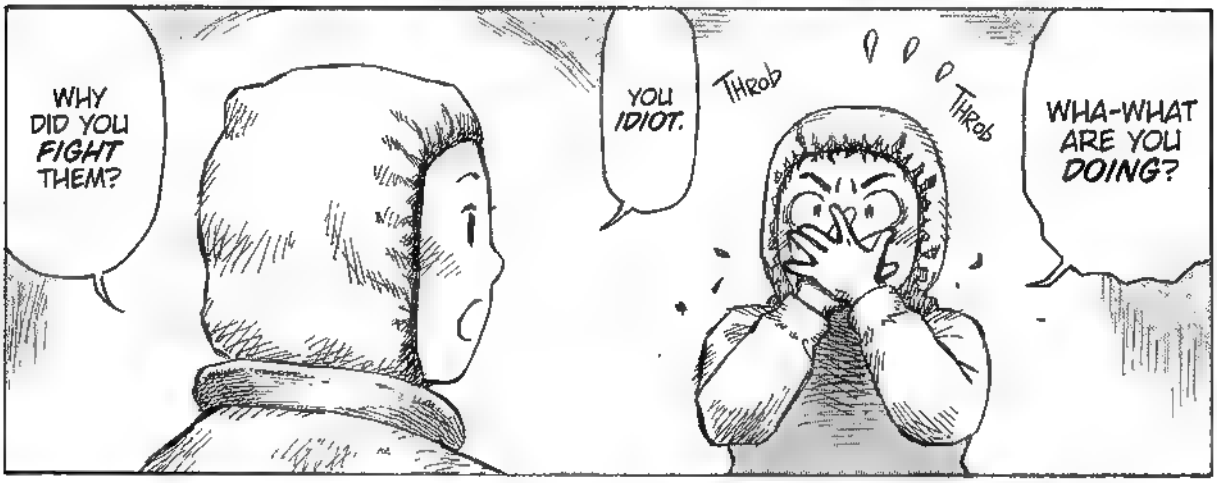
AH.
Step
Step
Step

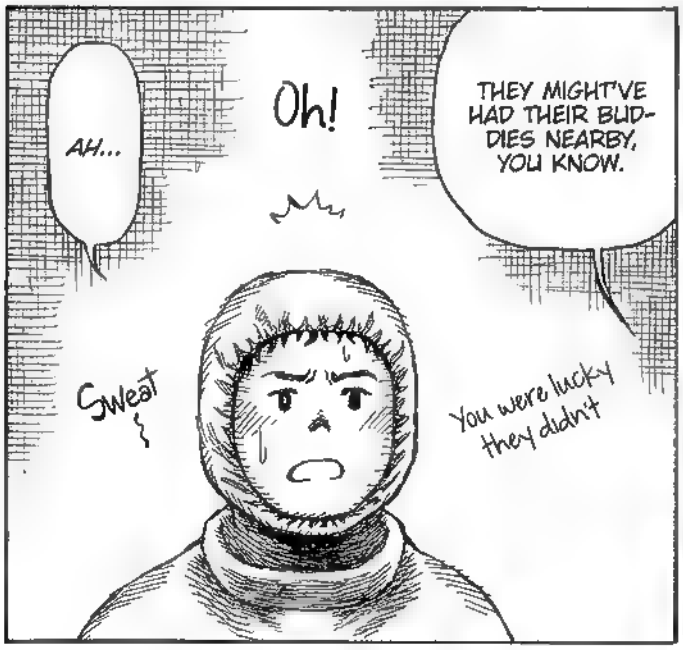

UHG!
WHUMP

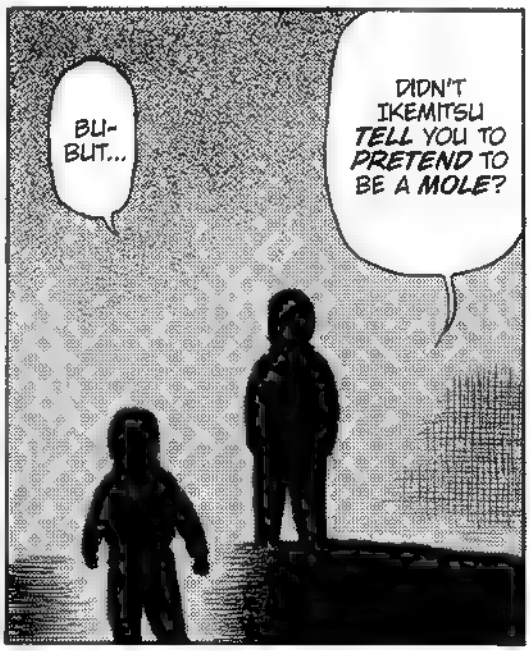

POW


GAH!
SHA!
WHACK

Achyoo!


WHY DID YOU FIGHT THEM?
YOU IDIOT.
Throb
Throb
WHA-WHAT ARE YOU DOING?


AH...
Oh!
THEY MIGHT'VE HAD THEIR BUDDIES NEARBY, YOU KNOW.
Sweat
You were lucky they didn't

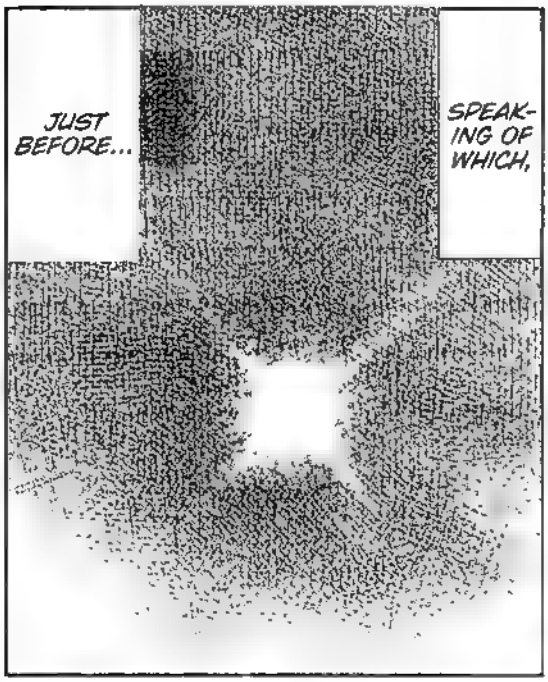

BU-BUT...
DIDN'T IKEMITSU TELL YOU TO PRETEND TO BE A MOLE?

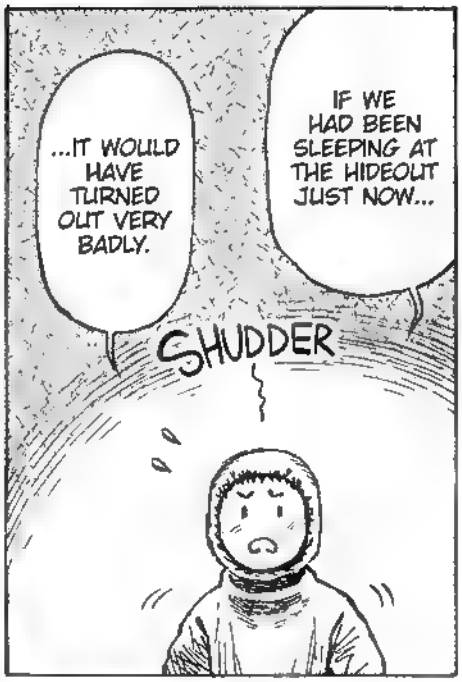
I WAS CURIOUS ABOUT THE FOOT-PRINTS FROM BEFORE...
And you went to track them?
...TSK!
Got a gun!

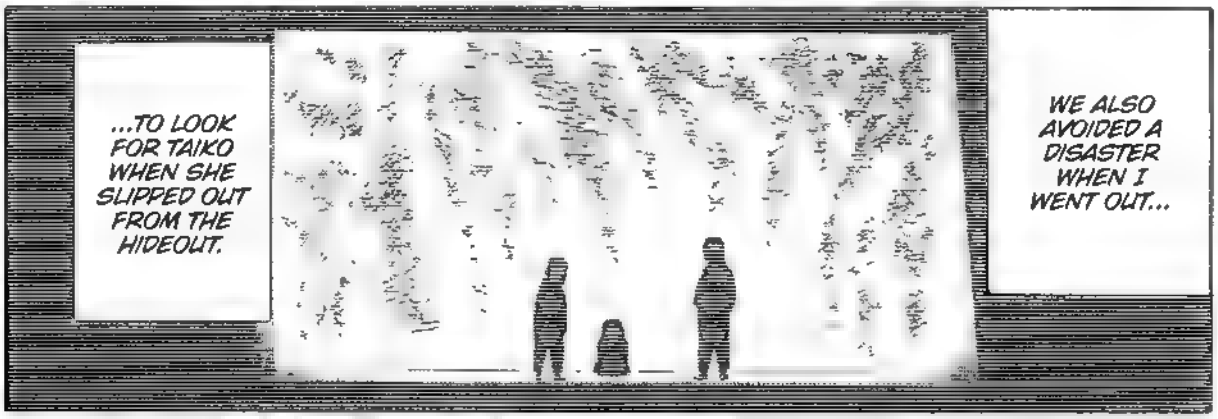
WHY THE HELL WERE YOU DAWDLING AROUND!
SO-SORRY.

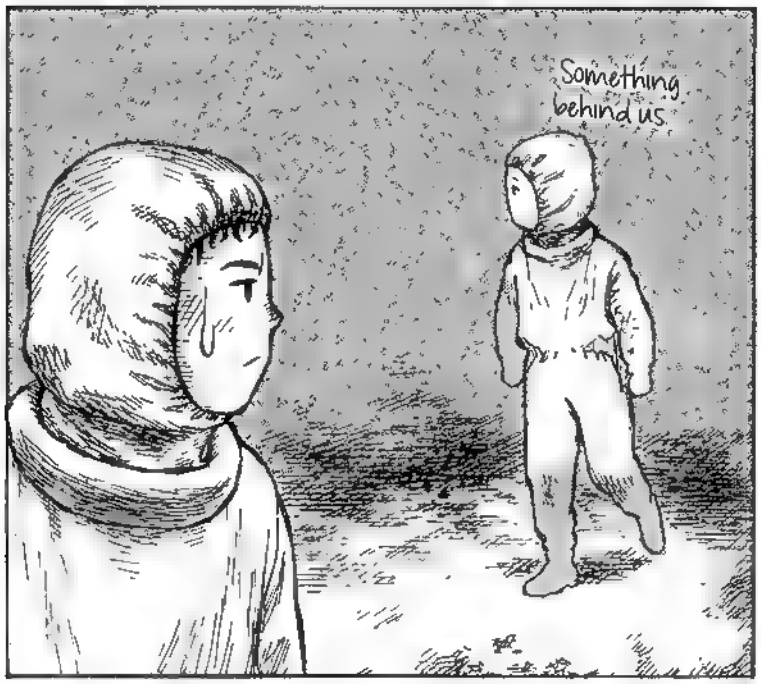
THEN WHAT WERE THEY DOING HERE?
AS IF I'D KNOW!
ANYWAYS, THAT WAS A CLOSE CALL.
ANY SLIP-UP WOULD HAVE BEEN FATAL.

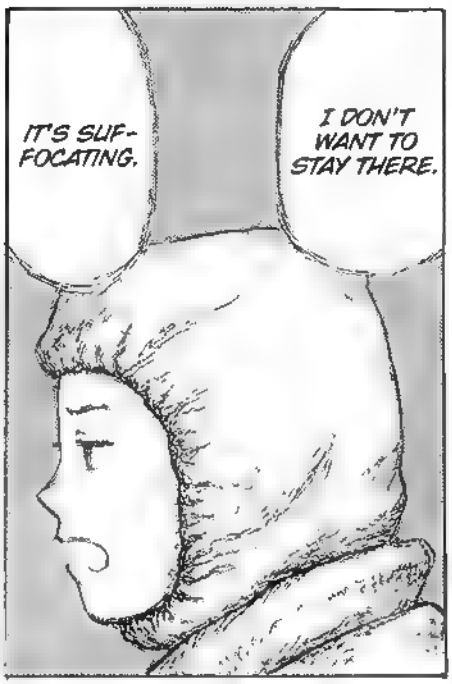
S-SO THESE GUYS CHASED US ALL THE WAY HERE?
THEN THEY WOULDN'T SEND ONLY TWO PEOPLE.
PLUS, THEY'VE ONLY GOT ONE GUN BETWEEN THE TWO OF THEM.


JUST BEFORE...
SPEAKING OF WHICH,

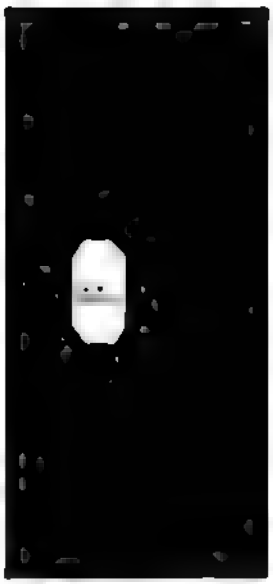

...IT WOULD HAVE TURNED OUT VERY BADLY.
IF WE HAD BEEN SLEEPING AT THE HIDEOUT JUST NOW...
SHUDDER


...TO LOOK FOR TAIKO WHEN SHE SLIPPED OUT FROM THE HIDEOUT.
WE ALSO AVOIDED A DISASTER WHEN I WENT OUT...


Something behind us.

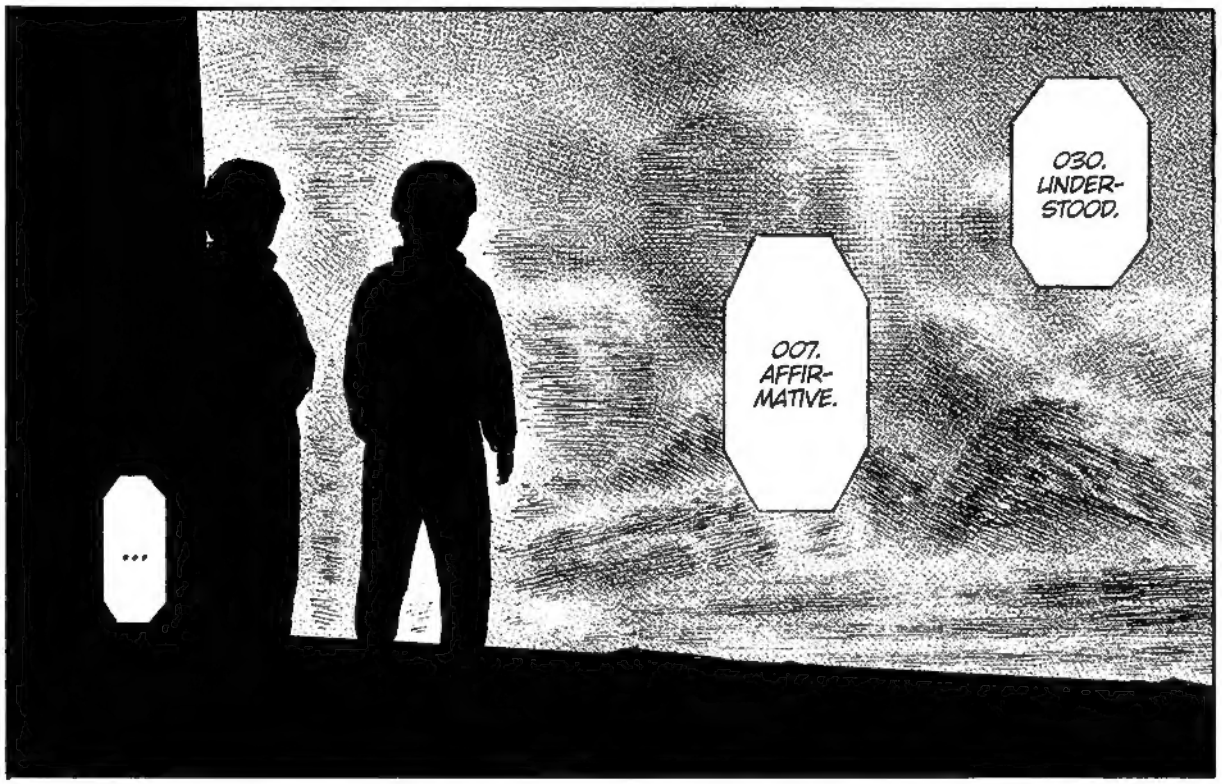

IT'S SUFFOCATING.
I DON'T WANT TO STAY THERE.

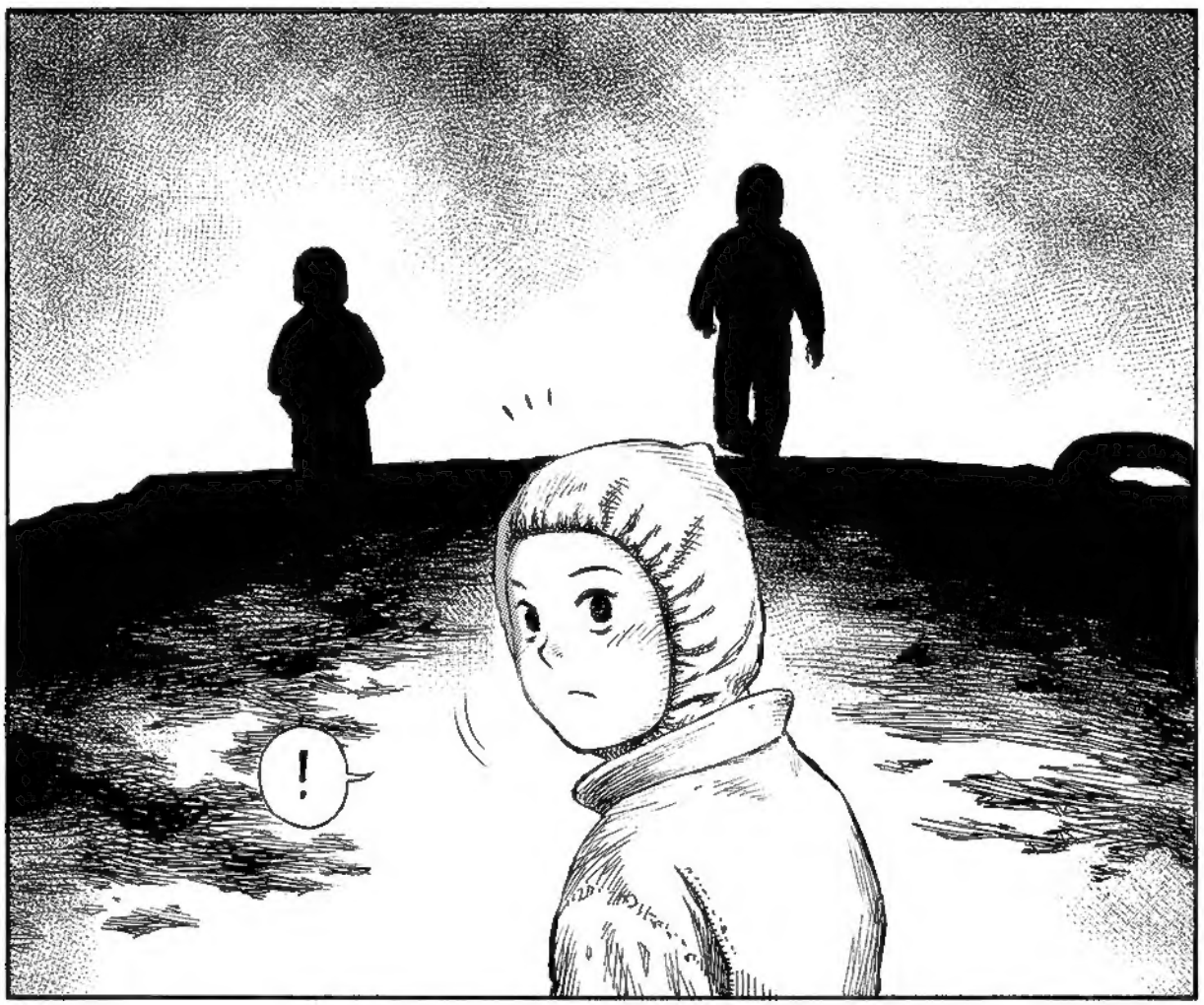
STAY HERE
ANYMORE



SIGN: WEST OASIS: STRATEGIC HAMLET NO.14

SIGN: UTENSILS, GENERAL GOODS, WORK GLOVES, LIGHTERS, BATTERIES


...
007. AFFIR-MATIVE.
030. UNDER-STOOD.


!

⑰巻も新しい武器も装備も出ませんでしたので、
GUN COLLECTIONも装備紹介もお休みです。

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